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The Echo, a non-profit community newspaper, is supported financially 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 2020, the Echo will be published in February, April, June, September and November. 8,000 copies are printed and distributed free of charge to residents of Lowertown. Additional copies can also be picked up at the Routhier Centre, the Lowertown Community Resource Centre, the public library, and various public and 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.

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 2020, l'Echo sera publié en février, avril, juin, septembre et novembre. Son tirage est de 8000 exemplaires. Il est distribué gratuitement partout dans la Basse-Ville. On peut également l'obtenir au Centre Routhier, au Centre de Ressources Communautaires de la Basse-Ville, à la bibliothèque et dans plusieurs commerces du quartier.

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

Les personnes qui aimeraient collaborer avec l'Echo sont invitées à envoyer un courriel 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.

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Deadline

Reserve your advertising space or submit your contribution to echo@lowertown-basseville.ca by March 23, 2020

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.

Date de tombée

Publicité, articles, photos et autres soumissions à echo@lowertownbasseville.ca avant le 23 mars 2020

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.

Jeu-questionnaire de la Basse-ville #11-1
Lowertown Quiz #11-1

- 1.Name the two Heritage Conservation Districts in Lowertown./ Nommez les deux Secteur de Conservation des Biens Culturels situés dans la Basse-Ville.
- 2. When is the byelection in Ottawa Vanier?/ Quand est l'élection partielle dans Ottawa-Vanier
- 3.Name two financial organizations created to help the residents of Lowertown./ Nommez deux organismes financiers créés pour aider les résidents de la Basse-Ville.
- 4. Where is Winterfest held? / Où se déroule le Winterfest?
- 5. Where will you find the mystery sculpture shown on page 7?/ Où trouverez-vous la sculpture mystère montrée à la page 7?

A winner will be drawn on May 1st from the names of all those who have submitted correct entries. The prize will be a free manicure from Smudge Beauty Bar and a coffee and tour of City Hall with Councillor Fleury.

Le nom d'un gagnant sera tiré au sort le 1er mai des noms de tous ceux qui auront soumis des inscriptions correctes. Le prix sera une manucure gratuite du Smudge Beauty Bar et un café et une visite de l'hôtel de ville avec le conseiller Fleury.

Winner of Quiz 10-5 was Lucie Dorais.

Submit your answers to ads.in.echo@gmail.com /Envoyez vos réponses à ads.in.echo@gmail.com

LOWERTOWN BASSEVILLE

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ASSOCIATION COMMUNAUTAIRE

LCA activities

By Norman Moyer,
President, Lowertown Community Association

The Lowertown Community Association has a full and exciting agenda for winter and Spring 2020. Here are the main items that we will be looking at in our Community Meetings. Please mark them in your agenda and come out to our meetings at the Routhier Centre, 172 Guigues Ave.

February 10, 7pm. Safety and Security. We will have a presentation by

the Ottawa Police Service on their new community policing model. We will have the chance to learn about the approach and to make suggestions about how residents and this association can be involved.

March 9, 7pm. The Community Newspaper/The Environment. We will have a panel organised by John Chenier, Editor of the ECHO, our community newspaper. John will find representatives of other community papers and we will talk about what we want in our

paper. In addition, we also want to use this meeting to look at the main environmental issues facing Lowertown.

April 20, 7pm. The Vision for Lowertown. We will have an extended panel discussion and debate on the key elements of the future of Lowertown, as defined by residents. Come and help define our opportunities and priorities for the next 15 years.

May 11, 7pm Finalising the Vision: Residents will have the opportunity to comment on the draft vision and to pro-

posed ways in which it can be communicated and implemented.

June 8, The Annual General Meeting. A full report will be made on the activities of the past year, financial statements will be submitted, a new Executive will be elected. We need new Board members. Please start thinking now about running for a position on our Board.

Activités de l’ACB

Par Norman Moyer,

L’Association communautaire de la Basse-Ville a un ordre du jour complet et passionnant pour l’hiver et le printemps 2020. Voici les principaux points que nous examinerons dans le cours de nos réunions communautaires. Veuillez les marquer dans votre agenda et participer à nos réunions au Centre Routhier, 172, allée Guigues.

10 février, 19 h. Sécurité et crime. Le Service de police d’Ottawa fera une

présentation sur son nouveau modèle de police communautaire. Nous aurons l’occasion d’en apprendre davantage sur l’approche et de faire des suggestions sur la façon dont les résidents et leur association peuvent être impliqués.

9 mars, 19h. Le journal communautaire/L’environnement. Nous aurons un panel organisé par John Chenier, rédacteur en chef de l’ECHO, notre journal communautaire. John trouvera des représentants d’autres journaux communautaires et nous parlerons de ce que nous voulons dans notre journal.

De plus, nous voulons profiter de cette réunion pour examiner les principaux enjeux environnementaux auxquels fait face la Basse-Ville.

20 avril, 19h. La vision de la Basse-Ville. Nous aurons une table ronde et un débat sur les éléments clés de l’avenir de la Basse-Ville, tel que défini par les résidents. Venez aider à définir nos possibilités et nos priorités pour les 15 prochaines années.

11 mai, 19h Finalisation de la vision : Les résidents auront l’occasion de com-

menter le projet de vision et de proposer des façons de la communiquer et de la mettre en œuvre.

8 juin, Assemblée générale annuelle. Un rapport complet sera fait sur les activités de l’année écoulée, les états financiers seront soumis, un nouvel exécutif sera élu. Nous avons besoin de nouveaux membres du conseil d’administration. S’il vous plaît commencer à penser dès maintenant à se présenter pour un poste au sein de notre conseil d’administration.

From the committees:

Traffic: Ana-Maria Tarras

Efforts to improve King Edward Avenue have a long history of collective effort by residents. The decades of work by the King Edward Avenue Task Force was folded into the Lowertown Community Association in 2016 and the attempts to find solutions continue.

ing lane into the Wedge so that traffic doesn’t back up during rush hour.

In summer 2019, the city did a study to see how many cars use the right lane during rush hour and found that it was 50! So for 50 vehicles, 5 days per week, the city insists this lane must be kept open to flow through traffic!

Why not install a bulb-out in this lane at the St Andrew crosswalk? A motion passed by Councillor Fleury last year stated that we need permanent traffic calming measures on this avenue and the City’s transportation committee considered this issue at one of its meetings in the fall of 2019. Before the meeting, city staff presented a few options for permanent traffic calming measures that involved structural changes to the avenue. At this meeting, members

of our community were encouraged to come and voice their support for a particular solution. Only a few people attended and the city’s preferred option was the one that won the support of residents: to reduce the size of the right lane from 4.5m to 3.5m. However, this would cost \$4 million to implement and is unlikely to address the many issues adequately. It will make the situation more dangerous for cyclists, and it will serve to silence the community by saying the city did something.

It is very frustrating. Let us work together for a King Edward Avenue that works for our community. Please let your Councillor and your Lowertown Community Association know that you care.

Planning: Peter Ferguson

The LCA will be responding to the proposals set out in the City’s R4 Zoning Review, Phase Two. The proposals seem to be a sensible approach to the need for more density in downtown R4 neighbourhoods. Most relevant to Lowertown are proposals to encourage the construction of new three storey, walk-up apartment buildings, each with smaller, more affordable units on smaller lots, some as narrow as 8 or 10 metres and now occupied by large single homes or duplexes. The proposals will be reviewed by the LCA Planning Committee at its meeting on February 4 and then by the LCA Board on February 10th prior to being sent to the city before the February 21st deadline. The letter to the city will be posted on the LCA site.



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Chez Lucien

Lowertown's meeting place in the Market!

La Basse-ville se retrouve Chez Lucien!

137 Murray @Dalhousie Byward Market 241.3533



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Hon. Mona Fortier, P.C., MP.

Ottawa - Vanier

Tout d'abord, je profite de cette occasion pour vous souhaiter une bonne et heureuse année !

Depuis 2015, notre gouvernement libéral s'est engagé à soutenir les Canadiennes et les Canadiens de la classe moyenne et de faire en sorte qu'ils aient des emplois mieux rémunérés, une retraite digne et un meilleur soutien pour leurs enfants. Sous notre gouvernement, les Canadiens ont plus d'argent dans leurs poches et 900 000 d'entre eux ont été sortis de la pauvreté, dont 300 000 enfants. À Ottawa—Vanier, plus de 15 000 enfants bénéficient à chaque mois de l'Allocation canadienne pour enfants. Je suis fier du

changement réel que nous avons mis en œuvre. Nous sommes prêts à tenir nos promesses et nous avons déjà commencé : le tout premier point à l'ordre du jour de notre gouvernement a été de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour réduire les impôts des Canadiens de la classe moyenne et des gens qui travaillent fort pour en faire partie. Cette réduction d'impôt aidera plus de 20 millions de Canadiens d'ici 2023, tout en veillant à ce que les plus riches n'en bénéficient pas.

À compter de 2020, ce changement remettra plus d'argent dans les poches des Canadiens en augmentant le montant d'argent qu'ils peuvent gagner avant d'avoir à payer l'impôt fédéral sur le revenu. Cela pourrait permettre à une personne seule d'économiser près de 300 \$ par année et à un couple ou une famille d'économiser en moyenne 600 \$ par année. À l'aide de cette mesure, environ 1,1 million de Canadiens ne paieront plus d'impôt fédéral sur le revenu.

Nous savons que lorsque les Canadiens ont plus d'argent dans leurs poches, nous bâtissons des communautés plus fortes, créons plus d'emplois et continuons de renforcer notre économie. Nous continuerons d'investir dans les Canadiens de la classe moyenne et les gens qui travaillent fort pour en

faire partie, afin de bâtir un Canada plus fort et plus résilient.

Soyez assuré, mon bureau de circonscription est toujours là pour vous appuyer avec tous les aspects des services fédéraux. Il est ouvert du lundi au jeudi de 9 h 30 à 16 h 30 et le vendredi de 9 h 30 à 16 h 00. Communiquez avec nous au 613-998-1860 ou envoyez un courriel à mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca.

Iwould like to begin by taking a moment to wish everyone a very happy new year.

Since being elected in 2015, our Liberal government has been focused on supporting middle class Canadians and ensuring they have well-paying jobs, a dignified retirement, and more support for their kids. Under our government, Canadians have more money in their pockets and 900,000 Canadians have been lifted out of poverty, including 300,000 children. In Ottawa—Vanier, over 15, 000 children receive support every month with the Canada Child Benefit through an average of \$740 going to each child. I am proud of the real change we have implemented.

As we enter 2020, we are ready to deliver on our promises and we've already started: as our very first order of business, our Government took steps to

lower taxes for middle-class Canadians and the people working hard to join it. This tax cut will help over 20 million Canadians by 2023, while ensuring that the wealthiest individuals won't benefit.

Starting in 2020, this change would put more money back in the pockets of Canadians by increasing the amount of money they can earn before paying federal income tax. This could save a single person almost \$300 a year, provide a couple or a family close to \$600 a year in savings, and nearly 1.1 million more Canadians would no longer pay federal income tax at all.

We know that when Canadians have more money in their pockets, we build stronger communities, create more jobs, and continue to grow a stronger economy. We will continue to invest in middle-class Canadians and those people working hard to join the middle class, to build a stronger, more resilient Canada.

As always, my constituency office is there to help you with any interactions with federal services. It is open Monday to Thursday from 9:30 to 4:30, and Friday from 9:30 to 4:00. Give us a call at 613-998-1860 or send an email at mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca.



Mathieu Fleury, Councillor

Rideau - Vanier

Heritage finally gets respect

These days you could say it is rare when a staff report upholds a city policy and refuses a high-rise development application. I am pleased to say that in the case of 116 York Street, this is precisely what happened.

On Jan. 23, City Council's planning committee rejected an application to build a 17-storey tower, with a two-storey podium at 116 York St. Located right in the ByWard Market's heritage conservation district, the proposed development did not respect the HCD — which calls for a maximum height of six storeys — and instead ultimately wanted to build another towering building.

There were several reasons why staff rejected this application, but in short, the City's planning department stated it felt this proposal did not suit this location. The report pointed out this partic-

ular site could not accommodate such a tall building, and it called into question that the separation of this proposal from the neighbouring properties was much too tight. The City's planning staff also stated the design did little to animate York Street.

For me, these issues alone are enough to reject an application - however, I am happy to say the number one reason committee members refused this application was because it did not respect the ByWard Market's Heritage Conservation District.

This proposal offered no character in its design or massing that we expect to see in the market. Indeed, it was just another tower trying to sneak in.

It is important to note, the fight does continue with this one - The applicant appealed to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) even before the committee's refusal. It is expected the LPAT hearing will take place in March 2020.

Development is essential for a city to continue to grow and change, but it is just as crucial for the right type of development to be built. I am always in favour of the redevelopment of a surface parking lot, and in this case, many of us might not be fond of the current situation on this site — a parking lot.

My hope is that the applicant goes back to the drawing board and presents to the community something different, something out of the box and something unique that would comfortably fit with the character of the market. As I said, it is rare that the city sides with existing

planning policies and I am glad that in this case the policies we worked hard to maintain — the HCD — was upheld.

Le patrimoine obtient le respect qu'il mérite à l'Hôtel de ville

Ces temps-ci, on pourrait dire qu'il est rare que le personnel applique une politique municipale dans l'un de ses rapports et refuse une demande d'aménagement pour un immeuble de grande hauteur. J'ai donc le plaisir de vous dire que dans le cas du 116, rue York, c'est exactement ce qui s'est produit.

Le 23 janvier, le Comité de l'urbanisme du Conseil municipal a rejeté une demande de construction d'une tour de 17 étages, dotée d'un socle de 2 étages, au 116, rue York. Le projet d'aménagement visait à bâtir, directement dans le district de conservation du patrimoine (DCP) du marché By, une nouvelle tour qui ne respectait pas les exigences associées au DCP (hauteur maximale de six étages).

Le personnel a rejeté la demande pour plusieurs raisons, mais en résumé, l'équipe d'urbanisme de la Ville a jugé que le projet ne convenait pas à l'emplacement. Selon son rapport, le site en question ne pouvait pas accueillir un immeuble d'une telle hauteur, et le bâtiment prévu se trouvait beaucoup trop près des propriétés avoisinantes. Le personnel de la planification de la Ville a également fait observer que la conception contribuerait peu à dynamiser la rue York.

À mes yeux, ces problèmes, à eux seuls, sont suffisants pour rejeter une demande. Néanmoins, j'ai le plaisir de préciser que le motif ayant pesé le plus dans la balance est que la demande ne respectait pas les exigences liées au DCP du marché By. La conception et la volumétrie prévues ne présentaient pas le caractère que l'on s'attend à voir dans le marché. C'était, en réalité, juste une autre tour essayant de se faufiler en douce dans le décor.

Fait à noter, la bataille n'est pas encore terminée : le demandeur a interjeté appel de la décision devant le Tribunal d'appel de l'aménagement local (TAAL) avant même que le Comité signale son refus. L'audience du TAAL devrait avoir lieu en mars 2020.

Les projets d'aménagement sont essentiels à la croissance et à l'évolution de la ville, mais il est tout aussi important qu'ils cadrent avec le voisinage. Je suis toujours favorable au réaménagement d'un parc de stationnement en surface, et dans ce cas-ci, bon nombre d'entre nous n'apprécieraient probablement guère l'aménagement actuel du site, qui accueille un parc de stationnement.

J'espère que le demandeur reverra son projet pour en présenter un autre à la collectivité, un projet original qui sortira des sentiers battus et se mariera à merveille avec le caractère du marché. Comme je l'ai mentionné, il est rare que la Ville applique à la lettre les politiques d'urbanisme en vigueur; je me réjouis donc que dans ce cas-ci, les politiques durement acquises — le DCP — aient été respectées.

Byelection called for February 27th

A byelection has been called for February 27 in Ottawa-Vanier. The Echo attempted to reach the candidates for all the parties, but only heard back from representatives for the NDP and Liberal candidates before going to press.

The Green Party has nominated Benjamin Koczwarski. The Progressive Conservative candidate is Patrick Mayangi.

Below is the information submitted for the Liberal and NDP candidates.



Lucille Collard, Liberal

Liberal party candidate Lucille Collard became part of the community of Ottawa-Vanier 35 years ago. Early on in her career with the Federal Government, Lucille had the privilege - and challenge - of supporting a number of hard-working Ministers and Members of Parliament. That experience taught her the power of politics as a tool to support communities and individuals across our country.

Having completed a law degree at the University of Ottawa in 1999, she pursued a public service career as a lawyer, working in such areas as international trade law with the NAFTA Secretariat, administrative and regulatory law with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and public law with the Federal Court.

A mother of four, Lucille has long been very focussed on advancing education as an essential building block of success for individuals and communities. In the early 2000s, she had a leading role in the opening of a new francophone public school where all students could benefit from an integrated intellectual, emotional and physical development programme. Started as a pilot project in 2003, with 18 students, the school - Trille des Bois - was officially opened in 2010. Today, Trille des Bois welcomes over 600 students and is a pillar of success.

Building on this achievement, Lucille decided to run for public office and in 2010, was elected as a School Trustee for the Ottawa-Vanier, Ottawa-Rockcliffe sector. She was re-elected in 2014 and 2018, and that same year was cho-

sen by her fellow trustees to serve as Chair of the Board of the Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario.

Today, Lucille is as focussed as ever on bringing people and communities together - one of the reasons why she is running to be Ottawa-Vanier's Member of Provincial Parliament. The Liberal candidate is engaged on building supports for vulnerable people in the community and supporting the development of local organizations like the Vanier Museopark and La Nouvelle Scène Gilles Desjardins. She wants to use her acquired professional, political and community experience in service to her community.

Il y a 35 ans Lucille Collard emménageait dans la communauté d'Ottawa-Vanier. Au début de sa carrière dans la fonction publique fédérale, Lucille se voit confiée le privilège - et le défi - d'assurer le soutien de plusieurs ministres et députés fédéraux actifs et exigeants. Cette expérience lui permet de constater l'importance que peut avoir la politique comme instrument de soutien aux communautés et aux individus, partout au pays. En 1999, Lucille Collard obtient un diplôme de droit de l'Université d'Ottawa et poursuit sa carrière dans la fonction publique, à titre d'avocate, dans plusieurs domaines juridiques tels que le droit commercial international au Secrétariat de l'ALENA, le droit administratif et réglementaire auprès de la Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire et le droit public à la Cour fédérale.

Quatre fois maman, Lucille est depuis longtemps très impliquée dans l'avancement de l'éducation comme élément essentiel du succès des personnes et des communautés. Au début des années 2000, elle joue un rôle de premier plan dans l'ouverture d'une nouvelle école publique francophone où tous les élèves pourront profiter d'un programme de développement intellectuel, émotionnel et physique intégré. Lancée comme projet pilote en 2003 avec 18 élèves, l'École Trille des Bois sera inaugurée officiellement en 2010. Aujourd'hui, Trille des Bois reçoit plus de 600 élèves et l'École est un exemple, un pilier de réussite.

Après ce succès, Lucille décide de se porter candidate à une charge publique et en 2010, elle est élue comme conseillère scolaire pour le secteur Ottawa-Vanier, Ottawa-Rockcliffe. Réélue en 2014 et 2018.



Myriam Djilané, NDP

NDP Candidate Myriam Djilané is the daughter of a French-Canadian mother and a Somali father who came to Canada from Djibouti in the 1980s in search of higher education. Myriam was born in Ottawa and raised in Sandy Hill. She has now proudly made Lowertown her home. With friends and relatives in Vanier, Overbrook and Beacon Hill, she is very attuned to the local issues that concern people in this riding, notably affordable housing, French-language services, student debt and precarious youth employment, and well aware of the connections to the provincial level.

For a full decade now, she has encouraged others, particularly young people and minorities, to engage more actively in the political process. She has driven neighbours to the polls and defended progressive policies. After studying social work in Ottawa, she specialized in performing arts in Toronto, where she volunteered on Olivia Chow's (Jack Layton's widow) mayoral campaign.

Growing up within a Canadian diplomatic family, Myriam also had the opportunity to spend time in Haiti, Ethiopia and Egypt, which turned her into a polyglot who speaks six languages and relates to people from different cultures and socio-economic circumstances. In order to campaign full-time, Myriam has just resigned from her position with Air Canada and will continue door-knocking despite the cold throughout February to reach out and listen to what the people of Ottawa-Vanier want from their provincial representative.

Not your typical politician, Myriam believes in representatives at all levels of government who better reflect the linguistic, socio-economic and ethnic diversity of their constituents. For Myriam, student debt, affordable housing and the fight for \$15 per hour, for example, are not abstract concepts, but rather lived experiences affecting people through years of status quo that have not brought about any positive changes in their lives. This experience will help her defend the interests of the people of Ottawa-Vanier with authen-

ticity and efficiency. Only one job is awaiting her in Toronto: defending the rights of the people in our neighbourhoods who have not been represented at Queen's Park for six months now.

Myriam Djilané, candidate néo-démocrate, est la fille d'une mère québécoise et d'un père venu de Djibouti dans les années 1980 pour poursuivre des études supérieures. Myriam est née à Ottawa et a grandi dans la Côte-de-Sable. Elle est aujourd'hui fière d'avoir fait de la Basse-Ville son chez-soi. Grâce à ses amis et à sa vaste parenté dispersés un peu partout à Vanier, Overbrook et Beacon Hill, elle comprend très bien les enjeux locaux (notamment le logement social et abordable, les services en français, la dette étudiante et la précarité de l'emploi des jeunes), ainsi que les liens avec le palier de gouvernement provincial.

Depuis déjà toute une décennie, elle encourage les gens, surtout les jeunes et les minorités, à participer activement à la vie politique du pays. Elle a conduit des voisins jusqu'aux urnes et défendu des politiques progressistes. Après avoir étudié en travail social à Ottawa, elle s'est spécialisée dans les arts de la scène à Toronto, où elle a été bénévole dans le cadre de la campagne d'Olivia Chow (veuve de Jack Layton) pour la mairie de la Ville Reine.

Ayant grandi au sein d'une famille de diplomates canadiens, Myriam a aussi eu la chance de passer quelques années en Haïti, Éthiopie et Égypte, et d'apprendre six langues, ce qui lui permet de s'identifier avec de nombreuses cultures et circonstances socioéconomiques. Pour pouvoir faire campagne à temps plein, Myriam a dû démissionner d'Air Canada et continuera à cogner aux portes malgré le froid de février pour entendre les gens d'Ottawa-Vanier lui dire ce qu'ils veulent de leur députée.

Loin d'être une politicienne typique, Myriam croit que nos représentants à tous les paliers de gouvernement devraient mieux refléter la diversité linguistique, socioéconomique et ethnique de ceux et celles qui les élisent pour servir leurs intérêts. Pour Myriam, la dette étudiante, le logement abordable et la lutte pour 15\$/h sont des enjeux bien réels, et non des concepts abstraits. Elle a vécu les mêmes problèmes que bien des gens qui, au fil d'années de statu quo sur le plan politique, ont vu peu de changements positifs dans leur vie. Ce vécu l'aidera à défendre les intérêts des gens d'Ottawa-Vanier avec authenticité et efficacité. Seul un boulot l'attend à Toronto: défendre les gens de notre quartier, qui n'ont aucun représentant à Queen's Park depuis six mois déjà.

Union du Canada

By Marc Aubin

Only a large weathered cornerstone remains of what was one of the most important co-operative organizations in Ottawa French-Canadian history. It now sits outside the entrance to the City of Ottawa Archives at 100 Tallwood Drive. It was placed there in 2014 after our community's Heritage Committee alerted authorities that the rest of the building on Dalhousie St was being destroyed by a wrecking crane.

Founded in 1863, in the early days of Ottawa when the French-Canadian community was still establishing itself, the Union du Canada (first called l'Union Saint-Joseph) was a form of co-operative that responded to a very precarious problem. In a time when there were very few social supports, an illness or sudden death in the family could completely destroy its source of income. If people did not work, they did not get paid and their families could suffer significantly. Life insurance companies provided help, but their rates were prohibitively expensive for many working class people. This was the purpose of the Union du Canada in its early days – to provide health and life insurance for its members.

Unlike regular life- insurance companies, the premiums of the Union were lower, and the targeted demographic in those early days was the working class. The organization had a form of not-for-profit co-operative approach that allowed for lower life-insurance rates. Just as important, it also provided a form of community solidarity for its members.

The Union du Canada first had its meetings in an old 2.5 story brick house on Murray Street that served as a French-Catholic school. In 1884, a significant increase in membership permitted the purchase of an old Methodist church at the corner of Dalhousie and York streets. Many other French-Canadian organizations used the church as a meeting space. It was replaced by a four-storey purpose-built office building in 1907, which was designed by famous Ottawa architects Noffke and Turgeon. The building was later renovated and the exterior replaced. However, a fire gutted the building in 1966, leading to the construction of a new office tower.

In 1895, partly due to the evolution of laws and pressures on local co-operative mutual benefit societies, the Union du Canada re-organized on a national scale. This is where the organization moved from being administered by the working class to a more professional elite. Other branches were opened in Ottawa and throughout Canada and parts of the United States. Some were built through annexation of others.



Union du Canada headquarters at 325 Dalhousie ca 1925 (1907-1966) (above) Quebec Archives and (1968-2014) (left) National Archives

The last and sad chapter in the history of the Union du Canada was the proposed demolition of the building itself at 325 Dalhousie Street. Despite a solid case by the Lowertown Heritage Committee for protection of the building under the Ontario Heritage Act, city and provincial officials refused to

even consider a thorough designation request submitted by the Lowertown Community Association. There is no mechanism to force the city to consider designation, which is yet another football-field example of the loopholes available to developers and City Council.

The Union du Canada building was the best example of local modern architecture in Lowertown. Unfortunately, the vintage of the building along with its run-down state, did not lend itself to supportive public opinion or political capital. Almost all of Lowertown's mid-century modern architecture has been lost over the past twenty years, but this was the biggest loss. With appropriate restoration, re-adaptation, and some new elements, the building would have been a shining monument to the grand French-Canadian organization that it once housed.

As a concession, it was promised that a display commemorating the Union du Canada would be mounted in the hotel on the site, but to date there is no evidence of any display. For more information on the building itself, it is featured on the local website, Capital Modern, at <http://www.capitalmodern.ca/demolition/union-du-canada-building-demolition-finished/>.

In 1900, the organization name was changed to the Union Saint-Joseph du Canada, and then again in 1959 to Union du Canada.

The organization was deeply embedded in the Ottawa francophone community. Many prominent Lowertown francophones helped establish and run the organization. It was an exceptional example of the trend towards creation of self-help benevolent societies. It was closely aligned with other Lowertown and Franco-Ontarian groups in the fight against Regulation 17, and in protecting francophone linguistic rights. It fully participated in, contributed to and hosted cultural and religious events and celebrations in the Lowertown area in a significant way over its 150-year history.

The Union du Canada was led from 1980 to 2011 by Gérard Desjardins. He started as an insurance salesman at the organization in 1954, and moved up the ranks. Following his departure, on the eve of its 150th anniversary, the Union du Canada ceased to exist. In January 2012, the Union du Canada applied to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice for restructuring. In response, the Court found that the organization had insufficient funds to ensure long-term viability and ordered that it be liquidated.

Rates - Les Tarifs 2020					
Description	Ad	Dimension in inches : width x height	Price: one issue +HST	Advance purchase three issues: each +HST	Advance purchase five issues: each+HST
Business Card	B&W	3.25x2"	\$32.50	\$31.00	\$29.50
'Business Card	Colour	3.25x2"	\$37.50	\$35.50	\$33.75
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Two Column 3"	Colour	5x3"	\$86.25	\$81.94	\$77.63
Two Column 4.5"	B&W	5x4.5"	\$112.50	\$106.88	\$101.25
Two Column 4.5"	Colour	5x4.5"	\$129.38	\$122.91	\$116.44
Two Column 6"	B&W	5x6"	\$150.00	\$142.50	\$135.00
Two Column 6"	Colour	5x6"	\$172.50	\$163.88	\$155.25
Small Banner	B&W	10x3"	\$150.00	\$142.50	\$135.00
Small Banner	Colour	10x3"	\$172.50	\$163.88	\$155.25
Quarter Page	B&W	5x7.5	\$187.50	\$178.13	\$168.75
Quarter Page	Colour	5x7.5	\$215.63	\$204.84	\$194.06
1/3 Page Banner	B&W	10x4.5"	\$225.00	\$213.75	\$202.50
1/3 Page Banner	Colour	10x4.5"	\$258.75	\$245.81	\$232.88
Half Page Horizontal	B&W	10x7.5"	\$375.00	\$356.25	\$337.50
Half Page Horizontal	Colour	10x7.5"	\$410.00	\$389.50	\$369.00
Half Page Vertical	B&W	5x15"	\$375.00	\$356.25	\$337.50
Half Page Vertical	Colour	5x15"	\$410.00	\$389.50	\$369.00
Full page	B&W	10x15"	\$575.00	\$546.25	\$517.50
Full page	Colour	10x15"	\$650.00	\$617.50	\$585.00

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The Actzia at the Talmud Torah

By Nancy Miller Chenier

The Jewish community in Lowertown expanded after the First World War, with many of the newcomers arriving with multiple family members, minimal or no English or French language ability and little wealth. The tradition of extending financial and other assistance to fellow Jews took on new importance in a city where opportunities for work and financial support were limited. At a time when established financial institutions would not extend credit to anyone without collateral, both newly arrived and others in need turned to more economically secure community members for help.

The Actzia, a financial self-help group, was one of several organizations developed by the Jewish community to

assist its members. Sylvia Bodovsky Kershman, who grew up at 321 St Andrew Street, remembered the Actzia, then located in the Talmud Torah at 171 George Street. In her book *Life Lines and Other Lines*, she reminisced about going to George Street with her father, Wolfe Bodovsky when he went to make payments against a loan. This money would have helped the family develop their successful wholesale and retail butcher business in the ByWard Market.

Times were particularly tough in the 1930s and this may have been the motivation for the Karachunsky and Weiner families, who are credited with initiating this effort to meet the needs of the community. Moses Karachunsky, who had a fruit business on Clarence Street, and Isaac Weiner, who

had a shop with second-hand goods at



Wolfe Bodovsky, member of the Actzia, Bodovsky family

the corner of William and York, were probably able to obtain bank loans and

then could provide some funds to support the organization. Like other credit co-operatives, the shares purchased by members demonstrated commitment to a common good and also supplied some of the money needed for loans. Sylvia Bodovsky Kershman recalled that the small pre-determined payments were made every Sunday, and that the occasion provided a time to socialize while enjoying refreshments that always included herring and schnapps.

The Actzia closed in the mid-1950s at a time when credit was more available. But its story carries on as another example of a Lowertown community group coming together for mutual support and committing to help each other overcome shared financial barriers.

Caisse Populaire Ste-Anne d'Ottawa

By Nancy Miller Chenier

The Caisse Populaire Ste-Anne d'Ottawa may not have been the first francophone credit union in our city but it was the longest lasting. On March 31, 1912, members of the Ste-Anne parish met to establish this significant Lowertown financial institution. Over the years, Ste-Anne merged with other Caisses. In 1984 after amalgamating with several other Caisses, it took the name Ste-Anne Laurier, and then in 2003 combined with Notre-Dame d'Ottawa to become the Caisse populaire Rideau d'Ottawa (now renamed Desjardins Ontario Credit Union at 147 Rideau Street).

At 550 Old St Patrick Street, the modern building designed in 1953 by Jean Serge LeFort has lost some of the distinctive gold grill treatment of its arched façade, but has retained its external night-deposit box with the French text as well as its internal walk-in bank vault. Now occupied by the John Howard Society, it still serves as a reminder of the building's significant history of serving Lowertown's francophones.

Alphonse Desjardins, the co-founder with his wife, Dorimène Roy, of the caisse model of Canadian credit co-operatives, collaborated with Ste-Anne parishioners to establish this important saving and lending organization. From 1892 to 1917, Desjardins worked as a

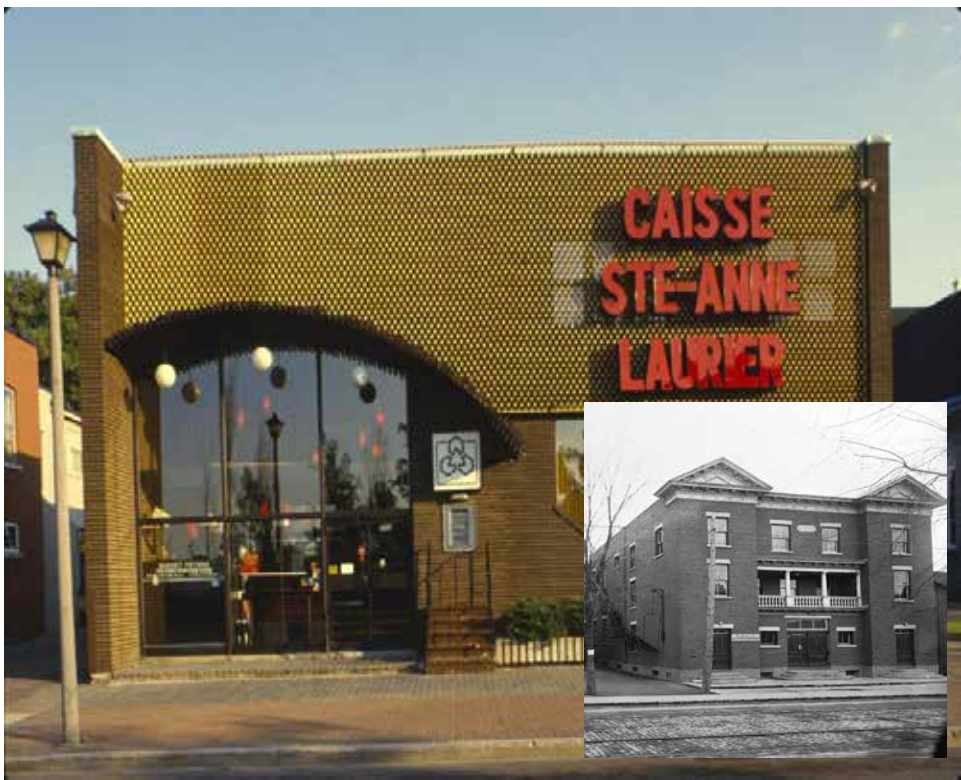
reporter for the House of Commons, ensuring that the parliamentary debates were recorded in the official Hansard. Here he heard about the unethical practices of private money lenders who

turbing. Many working-class francophones could not provide the collateral and financial guarantees demanded by established banks.

ish-oriented entity, as a body that would develop a more prosperous milieu for families. Labelle was an excellent candidate to promote the idea to the church hierarchy and to the parishioners. He lived at 416 Clarence Street with his wife Exilda and five children. He had steady employment with the federal government working for the Department of Secretary of State. He was a faithful parishioner with demonstrated leadership in several church organizations.

And for more than three decades, Wilfrid Labelle managed this successful Caisse and built its assets to benefit members. The goals were simple: to encourage individuals to save and to provide fair interest rates on loans. Before the Caisse occupied the modern building at 550 Old St Patrick, it was located in the Ste-Anne parish hall where by 1912, its entrance was clearly marked. In the early days, the monthly bulletin of the Ste-Anne parish would list the opening hours. And each year the balance sheets of the Caisse would be made publicly available.

When Labelle died in 1956, his obituary in *Le Droit* noted that Ottawa had lost one of its most esteemed citizens. He had helped build a financial co-operative with roots so deep that it continues to flourish.



Caisse Populaire Ste Anne-Laurier 1986: (Helmut Schade). Bottom inset: Entry to the original Bureau de la Caisse was at the east door of Ste Anne Hall (Helene Beauchamp)

exploited borrowers unable to access bank services by charging excessive interest rates on small loans. He found the case of a man who had to pay \$5000 interest on a \$150 loan particularly dis-

Wilfrid Labelle, a Ste-Anne parishioner, heard Desjardins speak about the effectiveness of co-operative credit societies and was motivated by the emphasis on the caisse populaire as a par-



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“Citizen” John Davis, a Lowertown character

By David Lafranchise

“Citizen” John Davis was a familiar and colourful presence in Lowertown in the 1890s. Whether on the street delivering firewood to a customer, canvassing for some cause, entertaining at home or at a social club, or speaking out at a public meeting, everyone knew who he was.

Davis arrived with his family in Ottawa from England about 1883 and quickly found a job as a private coachman. Within a few years he was also selling firewood and sand from his new home at 494 Clarence St. More and more land was needed to stack wood and to supply sand, and Davis eventually owned all the land east of Charlotte Street and north of Clarence. By the time he had mined the sand and sold the lots for development, Davis estimated he had lowered the land level by 20 metres.

As early as 1888, Davis had been recruited “as a representative workman” to join a committee of citizens organizing a public event. He was gradually accepted as an active member of the local “great and good” who organized events for the City, sat on the boards of its charities and dominated the public meetings called to gather public opinion on municipal issues. Davis was always careful to ensure that celebrations included events in Lower-



town, and always considered himself a spokesman for the working man.

Davis was ready to speak out and ask awkward questions about any issue: the proposed interprovincial bridge, municipal electrical supply, a public library, the statue of Sir Galahad. Closer to home he led the citizens of Lowertown in securing a new public school on Rideau Street rather than in Sandy Hill, building city playgrounds to keep children off the streets and out of the old cemeteries, shutting down or modernizing the rendering plant across the Rideau that sent an unbearable stench with an east wind.

In 1911, Davis was also part of the delegation from Lowertown, led by Father

Myrand of Ste-Anne, that argued that Porter’s Island was not a suitable site for an isolation hospital and should be made into a park. He was also strongly in favour of converting the old cemeteries into a park (today’s Macdonald Gardens) and made sure the local press was steadily fed stories of how the cemeteries were the resort of objectionable characters.

**Left: An image of Davis that appeared in the Ottawa Journal
Below: 494 Clarence, the starting point of his business empire**



Perhaps his most unusual contribution to the neighbourhood came in 1894

when he opened an indoor swimming pool on Wurtemberg St just north of Clarence. There was no heat, so the pool operated as a skating rink from December to March. Though popular, when the building burned down in April 1896 it not rebuilt.

Davis was always ready with a song or a poem or a story, and many circulated about him. For example, Davis took the Electric Railway to court because a conductor asked him to take his feet off the seat. It took two jury trials and two appeals for the Divisional Court in Toronto to rule that the conductor was within his rights. On another occasion, Davis made a deal with the city to supply sand to raise and landscape Anglesea Square. The City later accused Davis of digging the sand out of Charlotte Street. Davis admitted doing it, but claimed his men intended to replace the sand with clay, to make a better roadway.

Davis turned over his business to his sons about 1909, and moved from Lowertown in 1914, eventually living in Ottawa South, where he died in 1925.

David Lafranchise partners with Marc Lowell to write *Lowertown house histories*. Completed projects are available at <http://househistory.tricolour.ca>

What’s in a Name: Pestalozzi College

By Nancy Miller Chenier

For some Lowertown residents, the tall apartment building at 160 Chapel will always be associated with an era of hippies and “sex & drugs & rock & roll.” But when construction of the 22-storey cooperative college and residence was announced in 1969, it was promoted as a positive social and educational experiment.

Named after Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi (1746-1827), a Swiss educational reformer whose motto was “Learning by head, hand and heart”, the college’s aim was to support development of all aspects of a person. The emphasis was on group learning through participation in activities that supported intellectual, moral and physical improvement.

In addition to providing housing, the facility provided spaces for subject matter such as history, literature and philosophy as well as artistic activities including photography, dance, ceramics, video and music.

Early proposals indicated that the building was designed to promote an innovative and progressive internal community that related closely to the larger external Lowertown community. Spokespeople saw the possibility for the Pestalozzi model to act as a catalyst for change at a time when the surrounding community was undergoing urban renewal.

Commoners’ Publishing, which later produced the Lowertown short story written by Norman Levine, got its start at Pestalozzi as a community-oriented organization for local poets, writers and photographers.

Johanne McDuff, then working as a freelance photographer, later an award-winning journalist, used the college facilities to produce her photographs for the book.

Despite the lofty intentions, Pestalozzi fell quickly into financial distress and by 1979 was sold to a private realty company.



Pestalozzi College at Rideau and Chapel 1972 Russell Mant

Enter the Quiz on page 2 and win valuable prizes
Participez au jeu-questionnaire à la page 2
et gagnez de précieux prix

Winner of Quiz 10-5 was Lucie Dorais a remporté le quiz 10-5

Hard truths at LCA heritage forum

By Liz MacKenzie

It takes a good speaker to lift you out of complacency, push your buttons on a topic you thought you understood and make you sit up and listen, especially when it's about Lowertown heritage, which some bemoan, some berate and some cherish.

But two speakers at the January meeting of the Lowertown Community Association (LCA) hit some nerves. They were part of a panel on heritage, organized by Andrew Waldron, Chair of the Heritage and Culture Committee of the LCA.

Leslie Maitland, a past president of Heritage Ottawa, talked about the need for change to the planners' "bible", namely the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS). It is quoted in planning arguments by those who support heritage and those who don't. Statements are often taken out of context, and it has never been a friend to heritage advocates.

Developers are adept at finding statements to support their arguments, especially around intensification. Using the PPS, they could find an argument to demolish the Parliament Buildings.

The PPS is issued under the Provincial Planning Act and all decisions by municipalities affecting land use planning matters "shall be consistent with" it. However, Leslie pointed out that, having been written in 1996, amended in 1997, and with revisions in 2005 and 2015, it doesn't reflect today's realities. She noted that the old policies are far behind current demands for conservation of building materials, energy efficiency, affordable housing and protection of cultural and heritage assets.

The PPS affects every planning decision by every municipality in Ontario, and we know that progressive changes are not likely to come from our present provincial government. We are at the mercy of our city councillors to support compelling arguments which will move us into the 21st century reality of land planning.

Thanks Leslie: I had never really put that together!

The second speaker, Susan Peterson, Rockcliffe Park Community Heritage Committee Outreach Chair, made her strongest points responding to City Heritage Planner, Ashley Kotarba's announcement that our Heritage Conservation Districts (HCDs) will be reviewed in 2020 and rewritten as bylaws.

We have been asking for this for years because our present HCDs (Byward Market and Lowertown West) are governed by a series of guidelines from the early 1990s, making them second-class citizens in any legal contest.

Susan was a strong player in a similar exercise for Rockcliffe Park Village, resulting in a plan in 2016.

But the work! The community had to write heritage reviews of all the buildings in the village. Hours were spent getting the wording of the bylaw strong enough to provide protection from a rash of applications for new monster houses in the Village. However, the community ended up with a document that seemed to serve their purpose, making it definitely worth the effort.

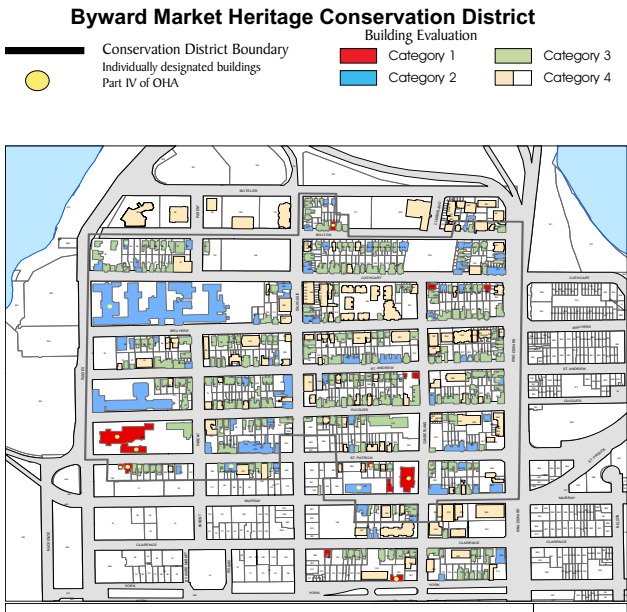
And the result? The bylaw was immediately appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board, and development after development contravening the bylaw has been approved with shovels in the ground.

She warned us to be prepared for a lot of work: we need dedicated volunteers, and we need, above all, to be proactive, clear and strong. She warned us to beware of "weasel words"; for instance to never use "may" and always use "must" etc., and to avoid any word that is vague or that could misinterpreted. And we have to be prepared to work if we want the new bylaw to protect our heritage district.

Lowertown's new HCD documents will eventually go to public consultation, and it is naive not to expect pushback from some landowners. We need all the help we can get, during the study phase, the consultations and the approvals.

Susan closed with a shout out for a recent report by Julian Smith, Canada's foremost heritage architect, educator and scholar. It is based on experiences of

Ottawa heritage advocates called Ottawa's Heritage Conservation Districts at Risk. (heritageottawa.org/sites/default/files/smith_report.pdf). It's a good read and a realistic summary of the difficult issues ahead.





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Opportunity is knocking; let's answer the door!

By Steve Ball

A cooperative (also known as co-operative, co-op, or coop) is "an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise". (<https://www.ica.coop/en/cooperatives/cooperative-identity>)

I like definitions. They often add clarity to an otherwise unclear concept. In my opinion, a co-op as defined above sounds like a good foundation to build on for success.

This business model reminds me of the Ottawa 2017 Bureau, which was established back in 2014 to deliver mega-events for Ottawa's 150th Anniversary celebrations. I was fortunate to co-chair the Board of Directors with Mayor Watson, and to work with a dynamic group of directors made up of key stakeholders throughout our community.

And of course, we had the luxury of Guy Laflamme as our Executive Director with all his organizational expertise, cultural knowledge and flair for producing unique and exciting events. His 400-page business plan read like a Disney script complete with dancing fairies, a fire-breathing dragon and a 100-foot spider and a multi-media light show that felt like a scene from Star Wars.

In the end, the take away for me was the importance of having the right people at the table during the strategic planning stage and ensuring everyone was committed to the success of the overall plan. As a group we didn't always agree, but I would suggest that disagreement is a healthy and necessary component for success. Talented

people have strong opinions, so having a forum to express their ideas and thoughts is useful.



I will always remember the initial reaction from the board when Guy Laflamme proposed spending several million dollars to bring a mechanical dragon and spider across the Atlantic to do battle in our downtown core. It was a hard thing to imagine at the time, but as it turned out La Machine attracted more spectators in 2017 than Canada Day, and the attendee satisfaction levels were off the charts. It takes business smarts to create a vision, but it takes guts and perseverance to sell that vision to others. Well done Guy!

It's time for Ottawa to have some tough conversations about the future of Lowertown. With just over 6 years left until the 200th anniversary of the ByWard Market we have a great opportunity to work cooperatively to deliver a new vision. Perhaps the city should consider forming a ByWard Market 2027 Bureau?

The good news is we have a lot of positives to work with. We have a new police chief who fully understands the situation in Lowertown and has recently made a commitment to bring back a community-policing model and to

work more closely with key stakeholders. We have the city investment in a public-realm study with the intention of improving streetscapes and traffic pat-

terns in the Market. We have a business community that has been investing in new living spaces and new hotels and restaurants, and we are experimenting with new public events to attract more visitors. Add in the new LRT stop at William St. and there is a lot of activity to build on.

But we also need the social agencies along with the City and Province to better manage homelessness, and to work more collaboratively towards ensuring people on the streets find a permanent place to live. We need to work on longer-term social planning programs because doing business as we do today will not prepare us for what's coming tomorrow. Homelessness and the issues that cause people to be on the streets in the first place are at a crisis level, and our streets are becoming less safe as a result.

Short-term rentals (STRs) also change the DNA of a neighbourhood. Ottawa City Council has shown true leadership by approving strict regulations regarding STRs. There is credible evidence that the By Ward Market and

Lowertown on a relative basis have the highest number of commercial Airbnb units in Canada (units where the host is not present), surpassing even the Toronto Waterfront. Returning these homes to the long-term rental pool will provide more inventory for families to live in and will help to create safer and more affordable Lowertown neighbourhoods. I can say with conviction as a resident of a George Street condo, I do appreciate knowing my neighbours.

There are so many well-intentioned people who want to see the By Ward Market and Lowertown grow and flourish. Councillor Fleury is a true champion for the Ward, and we are lucky to have him fighting for us at City Hall. We also need to consider the 11 million visitors to Ottawa every year, many of whom plan to enjoy and experience all that the By Ward Market has to offer. As Canada's Capital, it is incumbent on us to protect and nurture our key tourism asset to meet our common economic, social and cultural goals. We need visitors to feel a pride of place, and thanks to the good work from Ottawa Tourism we are well on our way to defining the spirit of our place.

Call it a movement or call it a cooperative, it really doesn't matter as long as we remain organized and aspire to work together as a community to deliver results. It's amazing what you can accomplish when everyone is aligned and moving in the same direction.

If you don't believe me that this works, ask yourself: How is it possible to bring mechanical dragons and spiders to life?

Steve Ball is the President of the Ottawa Gatineau Hotel Association, a board member of Ottawa Tourism and the Shepherds of Good Hope, and a resident of George Street.

Thank you again for your confidence. As always, our office is here to help you.

Merci encore pour votre confiance. Comme toujours, notre bureau est ici pour vous aider.

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ByWard Market BIA: Collaborating to enhance our community

By Christina Devine,

For the past 27 years, the ByWard Market BIA (Business Improvement Area) has represented over 600 businesses and over 200 properties, all located within an area of approximately four-square blocks. Providing opportunities for local small businesses to speak with a united voice on issues of common concern and interest, the ByWard Market BIA engages its members to be involved and informed about relevant plans and developments including parking, safety concerns, marketing initiatives, urban planning and transportation, development and construction, tourism and economic development.

Preserving the unique character of the ByWard Market as possessing a wide variety of owner-operated businesses and a farmers' market that make the ByWard Market rich in heritage, activity and animation, the BIA's role is to keep the ByWard Market top of mind for visitors and residents throughout the year, and to manage issues that affect its success such as safety, promotions and development.

The City of Ottawa currently has 19 BIAs that represent over 5,000 businesses in our city. In the ByWard Market, businesspeople within the specific geographical location join together with the help of their municipality to improve the area by promotions including marketing and events, while protecting its interests in government and business arenas.

The ByWard Market BIA was formed in 1993 and is administered by an elected 12-member Board of Management, Executive Director Jasna Jennings and a team of communications/special events coordinators. As a membership-based non-profit organization formed in a commercial area to promote the area as a whole, the ByWard Market BIA was created through a municipal by-law, funded by levies collected from all commercial proper-

ties within its boundaries.

Many businesses choose the ByWard Market as their home because it is Ottawa's premier destination for shopping, dining, arts, entertainment and professional services for residents and visitors -- drawing up to 50,000 visitors per weekend in the summer months.



“Our mission is to bring people to the ByWard Market so that members can turn them into customers,” says Jasna Jennings, ByWard Market BIA Executive Director. “Our role is to promote the ByWard Market to the public as a full-service, family-friendly, safe district, and to members to encourage participation and involvement in initiatives.”

One key initiative currently underway is a community art project in partnership with Shepherds of Good Hope and Options Bytown to collaborate with community members on creating artwork that will beautify the construction area on William Street surrounding fire-damaged historic buildings, which aims to inspire residents and visitors. Follow ByWard Market BIA on social

media to learn more about this project.

The ByWard Market BIA encourages business community members to participate in events and promotions; engage and share on social media to amplify community initiatives, post event listings on byward-market.com; donate prizes for events and promotions; join a

residents, businesses and non-profit groups.

As Chief Peter Sloly urges cooperation from the community, the ByWard Market BIA encourages business community leaders and members to get involved and support OPS's new plan to tackle violent crime in Ottawa.

committee and keep the BIA informed of changes to business information to stay current.

Committees include ByWard Market BIA Safety and Security Committee, which is a group composed of ByWard Market businesses, residents, Ottawa Police Services, City of Ottawa Bylaw and area social services. The focus is safety and security within the ByWard Market and this group meets on a monthly basis with all members welcome. Given the recent announcement by Ottawa Police Service in launching three new Neighbourhood Resource Teams in 2020, focusing on ByWard Market and Lowertown as part of this safety initiative, the ByWard Market BIA is dedicated to contributing to building relationships with the local

Find out more about the ByWard Market BIA:

- By phone: 613.562.3325
- By e-mail: bia@byward-market.com
- Website: byward-market.com
- By mail: 202-267 Dalhousie St, Ottawa, ON, K1N 7E3 Facebook: facebook.com/TheByWardMarket
- Instagram: twitter.com/bywardmarketbia
- Twitter: instagram.com/bywardmarket

Christina Devine is the communications consultant for ByWard Market BIA



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Real Estate: Downsizing to a condo?



By Lynda Cox

Let's start off with the statistics since our last look on November 5th 2019.

RESIDENTIAL

Active 2 Conditionally Sold 1
SOLD 29

Eleven of these properties sold in bidding wars ranging from \$2K to \$80K over asking.

CONDOMINIUM

Active 18 Conditionally Sold 1
SOLD 139

Twenty-three of these properties sold over asking, ranging from \$1K to \$35K over list price.

As you can see the condo market is booming, and we expect this to continue. If you are considering downsizing to a condo what do you need to know?

First, you need an idea of where you want to live. Walk the streets you like best. Take down addresses of buildings that impress you.

Second, you need to get a good sense of the prices and the pace of the market in those buildings. It is helpful to ask your realtor to start you on an MLS email feed. That way you can see daily everything that is available and selling in your preferred buildings. On MLS the initials DOM (Days on Market) will help you understand how long properties are taking to sell.

Watch the "Comment" section closely regarding specific offer dates. Usually "hot listings" ("hot" meaning well priced and/or in a very desirable building) will be on MLS for three to seven days before offers are made. If you fall in love with something you visit you might have a few days to decide before having to submit an offer. Those few days can be crucial in helping you and your agent draft a great offer.

Whether parking and lockers are included is always detailed on MLS. Always check to see if they are owned or just "exclusive use".

Once your offer is accepted you typically have five business days to do an inspection and arrange financing.

If competing with other offers always remember that you have the option to waive or shorten those conditions if you feel confident doing so. (This is not recommended but is often helpful in making your offer more appealing.) In the case of a hot property you are encouraged to arrange financing and complete the inspection prior to putting in your offer. This will keep your offer "cleaner", meaning there are fewer conditions so your offer is ultimately more desirable.

After making your offer, you and your lawyer have approximately 13 days to order, receive, and review the condominium documents. This is called the Status Package, which details the financial status of the unit and the reserve-fund health of the condominium corporation. You also receive all the by-laws that all owners must abide by. Do they allow pets? If so is there a size restriction? Can you rent extra parking spaces? Is there visitor parking? Are you allowed to rent your parking space? Is the building cannabis/smoke free? Does the building allow short-term tenants like Air B and B? Can you remodel freely or are there restrictions?

You will also want to know if there are any pending law suits and/or spe-

cial assessments. Before offering, you or your realtor can call the management company and ask these questions. Sometimes the listing realtor has pre-ordered a copy and will make it available to all interested buyers prior to the offer date.

For your information, a special assessment is a levy for each condo owner above and beyond the condo fees. It is used for large repair items that the board has decided should be funded separately from the reserve fund and/or increased condo fees. NB: There should always be a clause in your offer to purchase that states that the current owner is responsible for any special assessment levied prior to the closing date.

The transition to condo living is a great time to purge all of your unnecessary "stuff". I speak from experience. We moved to our Lowertown condo in 2013 and now feel free to travel and enjoy our freedom from the "stuff" that had accumulated in our home's basement and closets. Moving to the Byward Market area was our best move ever. Try it. You'll love it too.

Lynda Cox is a member of the Cox Home Team at Royal LePage Performance Realty

Condo Corner: Co-Tenancy/Homeowner Associations



By David Lu

Firstly, I would like to convey to all of you my best wishes for the New Year.

Alternative models of residential ownership seem to have become increasingly attractive recently, perhaps due to the increasing prices of traditional freehold homes. Condominiums are certainly one model, but there are also several other models in existence.

One model that exists in Ottawa is called a Co-Tenancy or Homeowners Association. Such developments are

usually either townhomes or individual homes within a specific community.

In Co-tenancy/Homeowners Associations, the home (or unit if it's a condominium) is a freehold but the other elements that make up the community, such as parking spaces, any amenities (or the common elements if it's a condominium) are owned by all owners of the community together as tenants in common.

Unlike condominiums, Co-Tenancy/Homeowner Associations do not have a governing statute. Instead, they are generally governed by a Joint Use Agreement (JUA), or other form of contractual document that dictates all matters related to the community. A JUA is a contract between the owners.

Through this document, the owners are, in a nutshell, providing both positive and negative promises (i.e. "covenants") to each other with respect to certain rights and obligations in the community.

In real estate, a positive covenant is a promise made by a landowner to do something (i.e. pay money). A negative covenant is a promise by the landown-

er that restricts or prohibits the use of land in some way (i.e. not allowed to build a three-storey house). A JUA often contains both positive and negative covenants.

In some instances, there can be difficulties with enforcing a JUA against a successor owner. JUAs are registered on title to every property in the community, so a lawyer representing a purchaser would be aware of it. Nonetheless, the law in Ontario stipulates that only negative covenants run with the land.

This means that a new purchaser in a community governed by a JUA would only be obliged to adhere to the negative covenants of the JUA. This would not be a preferred option in situations such as when all owners in a community are required by the JUA to pay monthly fees towards the cost of maintaining common elements (a positive covenant).

A legal tool to get around this old principle in Ontario law is with an assumption agreement. This is essentially a separate contract between the seller and the buyer, in which the buyer promises to assume all the terms

and provisions of the JUA. A signed assumption agreement is often a mandatory condition of the sale. However, there is always a risk that this will not be done in a particular transaction.

In my view, reform to the law respecting positive covenants in land is long overdue. The principle in Ontario law that I briefly summarized above originated in England in the 1880s. If a new purchaser was able to free themselves of positive obligations because they somehow never signed an assumption agreement, it would be unfair to the other owners of the community.

In modern times, such registered covenants are readily accessible through title searches and should form part of the scope of review during the purchasing process. In my opinion, it would hardly be fair for someone to rely on an old legal principle from 140 years ago in order to get around positive obligations that they knew existed prior to completing the sale.

David Lu is an Associate at Davidson Houle Allen LLP, a boutique Condominium Law firm serving Eastern Ontario.

Living together: co-operatively

By John Chenier

The francophone community in Lowertown was decimated by the urban renewal scheme in the 1960s. Homeowners and renters alike were forced to vacate their homes, which were subsequently bulldozed to make way for new housing. Much of the “cleared” land was designated for publicly funded rent-geared-to-income housing. Other parcels of land and single lots were placed for sale on the open market.

For many francophone families that had been displaced, the preferred, if not the only viable way to return to Lowertown was through a co-op housing project. The federal government, through Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) had instituted a program for financing co-operative housing. In the early 1970s, groups wanting to build co-operative housing were required to have to a 5% down payment towards the cost of project.

Planning for the first housing co-operative in Lowertown started in 1968. Fifty-six families paid \$900 each to come up with the \$50,000 needed to secure the required \$1,000,000 to build houses on land leased from the City. In 1973, Parc Beausoleil Coopérative d’habitation at 10 Heney Street became the first francophone co-operative housing in Ontario.

The Beausoleil co-op was followed by Coopérative Brébeuf in 1976, situated off Desjardins Avenue, and Co-op d’habitation De LaSalle in the Wedge in 1982. Both of these co-ops purchased their parcels of land from the City.

In total, the three co-ops provide housing for 190 families. Beausoleil has 56 townhouses: 37 three-bedroom and 18 four-bedroom units and one unit that serves as an office. Brébeuf has 52 townhouses: 14 two-bedroom, 26 three-bedroom and 12 four-bedroom units.

De LaSalle, the largest of the three with 82 townhouses, is the only one with one-bedroom units: 15 one-bedroom, 34 two-bedroom, 28 three-bedroom and 7 four-bedroom units.

The CMHC program for co-operative housing used by the three Lowertown co-operatives stipulated that a percentage of the units had to be let to low-income families at a subsidized rent.

How these rents were to be subsidized varied over the years depending on the initial conditions of the mortgage, the bylaws of the individual co-ops and the many federal and provincial subsidy programs that were introduced and subsequently withdrawn over the years as the mortgages were renegotiated.

Today, none of the co-ops have an outstanding mortgage with CMHC. Beausoleil transferred its mortgage over to the Caisse Populaire when it was offered a better interest rate. Brébeuf moved to the Caisse Solidaire when it took out a sizeable loan to finance building improvements.

The De LaSalle mortgage is fully paid off. Consequently, none has an ongoing obligation to provide subsidized units. However, Brébeuf and De LaSalle still have a percentage of their units let to low-income families at a subsidized rent.

The co-op housing model has frequently been compared with private or public subsidized housing projects such as Ottawa Community Housing (OCH) as a means of providing housing for low-income families. Both models are meant to provide a mix of housing at subsidized and market rates in an effort to encourage mixed-income neighbourhoods.

However, faced with the overwhelming demand for affordable housing in the city, OCH is under constant pressure to reduce the number of units let to those who could afford to rent elsewhere.

The benefits of the co-op model are often summarized as:

- Affordability. Monthly housing charges are set by the members to cover the costs of running the co-op.
- Security. A member’s right to live in the co-op is protected as long as they’re following all of the rules.
- Community. There is a strong sense of community because members actively participate in all aspects of running the co-op.

That last point is probably the most important difference in terms of outcomes, and leads many to argue that co-ops are the preferable model as they are more successful in promoting safe, affordable, well-maintained housing than the publicly subsidized alternative offered by OCH.

Back in 1969, the Task Force on Housing and Urban Development led by Paul Hellyer recommended that: “Greater encouragement be given to the use of limited dividend, non-profit and co-operative projects as a means of providing adequate accommodation for lower income groups.”

Nevertheless, several studies have shown that money allocated to co-operative housing is very small compared to the funds directed at subsidized housing projects, home ownership or other measures to stimulate housing over the years.

While the co-op model may achieve better social and economic outcomes, it is difficult to imagine this model re-

Coops are governed by rules set out by their own bylaws and by provincial legislation. In Ontario, the major legislation is the Co-operative Corporations Act, RSO 1990, c. C-35. Section 171.

The legislation covers a lot of areas such as means of selecting new members (renters) and the process and procedures for rescinding membership and evicting people from their unit. There are others that relate specifically to the co-ops in our community.

All coops are operated and administered according to the following principles:

Each member has only one vote.No member may vote by proxy.
The co-op operates as closely as possible at cost and any surplus is:

- used to maintain or improve the service to its members;
 - donated for community welfare; or
 - used to spread co-operative principles
- The articles of incorporation of a non-profit housing co-op must state that:
- the primary object of the co-op is to provide housing to its members;
 - the co-op’s activities must be carried out without the purpose of gain for its members;
 - upon the dissolution of the co-op and after it has paid its debts and liabilities, the remaining property must be transferred or distributed to one or more non-profit housing co-ops or charitable organizations.

placing the subsidized-housing model. Co-op housing doesn’t just emerge out of thin air. It comes from a bottom-up demand and requires a few dedicated individuals willing to provide leadership, recruit members that are ready to make a commitment to a co-op way of living and have the money for a down payment.

It is unreasonable to expect that many of the people in immediate need of subsidized housing have the resources needed — money, connections to a like-minded community or time to wait — to create a co-operative housing project. However, it is conceivable that some of the OCH developments could be converted into housing co-ops, as has happened in Toronto. But that would require new public policies and programs as well as considerable private initiative for that to happen.

Things have changed markedly since the 1970s. Back then, people were deserting the inner core of cities in

droves. Since then, demographics and preferences have changed and the price of land and housing in the inner-cities has increased markedly, making it less likely that any more co-ops will be built in communities like Lowertown.

A recent story from CBC Vancouver noted that the leases for 57 co-ops accounting for 3700 units built on city land are due to expire. The question is, what should the city do? The options under consideration range from renewal of the current leases to complete redevelopment of the land.

According to the CBC report, the city’s director of strategic operations has stated: “We are going through an affordability crisis and we want to ensure that the people who are ... using public land are the ones who have demonstrated need.”

Obviously that issue will arise in Ottawa in the future. The only co-op on leased land in Lowertown is Beausoleil. Its lease expires in 2033.

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Declaring a housing emergency: What does it mean for Lowertown?

By Warren Waters

On January 29th the city declared a housing emergency. According to a memo from the mayor, more capital for housing units and operational housing subsidies are expected, doubling or tripling the affordable housing units built or subsidized (from an average of under 300 units per year over the last 6 years, to between 570-850 per year over the next ten years).

The refreshed homelessness plan is not yet public but reportedly includes only aspirational or sample strategies. So what should we expect will change here in Lowertown?

Mathieu Fleury says “I am glad to have worked with Catherine [McKenny] in getting unanimous support in their motion to declare a Housing and Homelessness emergency. This is a large step to respond to the needs of residents and vulnerabilities in Ottawa.

The City needs to sharpen its ask so that Provincial and Federal governments support 1000 units built every year. Residents in our neighbourhood continue to see how the current model continues to fail vulnerable residents.

This motion recognizes an urgent need to do things differently.”

A local corner store merchant believes the city is:

...bamboozling us to raise taxes, since the \$1.1 billion dollars spent on housing in the last six years has produced only ...1783 new affordable/supportive housing options including new builds and housing subsidies.

Lynn Trevor, a local realtor says:

Homelessness has been a crisis for too long, both in Lowertown and beyond. So Ottawa, being the first City to declare an emergency on affordable housing and homelessness, is a good start to bringing this issue to the forefront.

According to Noman Moyer, President of Lowertown Community Association:

These are all positive steps. They raise awareness and prepare the ground for more effective long term action. ... But, none of this matters unless real plans and budgets are made. ... The City has to develop the plans and determine the budgets required. So let's

praise the current 'consciousness raising' and continue to call for clear policies, measurable targets and detailed plans.”

Catherine Hacksel, a local housing advocate who also works in the sector agree.


As the lawyers at council indicated, the motion doesn't have legal implications - so this move basically has no teeth. I see this as simply spectacle and folks on the street deserve better.

My personal view is hopeful, but skeptical. Expecting that government funding alone can build enough affordable housing is unrealistic. For each

new affordable unit built in the past few years, Ottawa has lost seven existing affordable rental units. The private rental market must be involved in solutions.

Low interest rates, governments abdicating their responsibility for correcting housing market failures, and low-density zoning: all increase land value beyond our earnings. Existing owners get richer while impoverishing the next generation. Without wider public understanding of all our roles in this refreshed plan, it is unlikely to be more successful than the last 6 years,

Waren Waters is Chair of the LCA Housing and Homelessness Committee



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HOTEL HELPS THE HOMELESS

Heading into the holiday season, Andaz Ottawa hosted its third annual Shoebox Party. Light refreshments and snacks were provided to all attendees who came together to wrap and fill shoeboxes with little luxuries for local women experiencing homelessness. The goal of donating to the Shoebox Project is to help homeless women feel that they are receiving a bit of luxury beyond daily necessities. The Shoebox Project for Shelters Ottawa program, run entirely by volunteers, is supported by generous Ottawa business partners like Andaz Ottawa ByWard Market who host the charity's nearly 30 drop-off locations throughout the city.



Let’s Resolve to End Chronic Homelessness

By Deirdre Freiheit

Throughout the month of January many of us have been working through our New Year’s resolutions. Maybe it’s exercising more, reducing our screen time, drinking more water. It’s definitely all of that for me, with more success in some areas than others! But in 2020, I’m resolving to work with community partners to end chronic homelessness in Ottawa. I hope you’ll join me.

Homelessness in our city has reached a crisis point. This is reflected in Catherine McKenney’s motion to declare a state of emergency on housing and homelessness in the City of Ottawa. (McKenney is Somerset Ward Councillor and Council’s Special Liaison on Housing and Homelessness.)

In 2018, nearly 8,000 unique individuals used an emergency shelter, a 6.5% increase from the previous year. There were more than 12,000 applicants on the social housing waiting list, which is a 14.8% increase. These were record highs in both instances. As the capital city of one of the best countries to live in the world, these are not the records we want to be setting. We cannot have individuals and families waiting for years to access affordable housing. Housing is a human right.

The number of chronically homeless individuals in Ottawa, those who have been homeless for more than six months, is 439, with 151 of them staying at Shepherds of Good Hope. We know who they are and, often, the contributing factors that led to their

homelessness. They are not chronically homeless by choice. They are not lazy and they don’t view shelters as comfortable places to stay, nor as their forever homes. Add stigmatization of people who are living with trauma, mental-health challenges and addictions to the unavailability of affordable housing and the result is chronically homeless individuals who feel like



Deirdre Freiheit, President & CEO of SGH, Councillor Catherine McKenney and aide Sam Hersh

there is no place for them in their community.

The City of Ottawa is a signatory to the Built for Zero campaign through the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness. This means that we are working towards the goal of a “Functional Zero” end to homelessness, in which a community has a systematic response to homelessness in place, with comprehensive

prevention services. Any unavoidable experiences of homelessness, then, are rare and brief.

Surely that is the type of community we want to live in. The natural next question must then be: “How do we get there?” We need investments in affordable housing with a wide range of supports. Housing options must be responsive to the needs of particular populations, for example women and children fleeing violence, seniors, newcomers, youth, Indigenous peoples, LGBTQ individuals and veterans. We need to listen to the voices of people who are homeless and vulnerably housed, and meaningfully engage them in our planning and policy development.

Eliminating chronic homelessness in Ottawa is achievable; however, it can’t be done by one person, organization or level of government alone. It will take collective action to achieve Functional Zero and must start with each of us reflecting on the roles we play in our homes, workplaces and communities. I will be working with my teams, our community partners, City of Ottawa staff, City Councillors, volunteers and motivated citizens to do everything we can to end chronic homelessness in Ottawa. It starts with our fierce resolve to not accept our current crisis as the City’s new normal. Please join me and those of us who are working hard to ensure that everyone has a permanent home to call their own. We can do this, together.

Deirdre Freiheit is President and CEO of Shepherds of Good Hope and Chair of the Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa

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En tant que députée, je vais :

Collaborer avec les trois paliers de gouvernement pour résoudre les problèmes et rassembler les générations afin de bâtir une communauté qui fonctionne pour tous ses membres

Adopter une approche inclusive pour faire croître notre économie en améliorant l’accès au logement abordable, au transport, à la formation et à l’emploi

Travailler pour améliorer l’accès aux services de santé, l’éducation, le transport, et l’environnement et m’opposer aux coupures conservatrices dans ces priorités

As your MPP, I will:

Collaborate with all three levels of government to solve problems, and bring generations together to build a community that works for everyone

Adopt an inclusive approach to growing our economy by increasing access to affordable housing, transportation, training and jobs

Champion healthcare, education, transportation, and the environment and oppose conservative cuts to these priorities

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Meet your neighbor: Dave Bowen

By John Chenier

If you happen to see a man wearing a black toque standing at the end of a hose in Bingham Park on a cold winter night, odds are that man will be Dave Bowen. For more years than he likes to count, Dave has been an integral part of the team that brings the Bingham Park ice rink to life every year. Sometimes he has just been one of the small crew of people ready to help out. Other years, like now, he has been what the city calls “the rink operator” on behalf of the Lowertown Community Association (LCA).



As many people know, the city pays the LCA every year to operate the Bingham rink. Dave wouldn't like to be centered out, but over the last dozen years, much of the money going into the LCA coffers is due to his hard work. The money earned from the rink allows the LCA to support the community in many ways, such as contributing to Lowertown's Winterfest held at Jules Morin Park every year on Family Day

(Monday February 17 this year) and providing the funds needed to get The Echo up and running.

Dave and his wife Angela (Angie) Rickman moved to their house on Bolton Street “32 wonderful years” ago. They initially rented the house from Angela's mother and step-father, who were away on a posting with the foreign service. When her parents eventually decided to sell the house, Dave and Angie concluded that buying would be easier than moving.

Dave started assisting with the rink in 2006. He was recruited by his next-door neighbor who was also volunteering at the rink. By that time, he and Angie had two sons, Brendan and Julian, who were beginning to use the rink regularly. Two years later, he had become the person in charge. After a couple of years as the rink operator he went back to being just a member of the crew.

In 2017, the community came calling and once again Dave agreed to take over the rink operator's role. What does this job entail? The operator is responsible for enlisting (and sometimes cajoling) volunteers from the community to help build, maintain and clear the ice surface; recruiting people with police checks and first aid qualifications to supervise the rink for the 20-30 hours per week required by the City; and filling any gaps that need to be filled.

Speaking from experience, this is a major chore at the best of times! With the way the weather has behaved over the past three years, it is the kind of chore that leads to headaches. But Dave doesn't complain. Yes, it is a lot of work, but he says it is gratifying to see young families out using either the main rink or the smaller “puddle.”

According to Dave, “Shoveling is the hard work. Flooding on a cold, dark night is a Zen thing. Passersby stop to chat, to ask me questions or sometimes to thank me for my efforts.” The most frustrating part is the young men who won't help. “They will put on their skates and skate around you, or stand at the side waiting for you to finish. In my day, you would show up and grab a shovel.”

His oldest son, Brendan, was a regular helper. When he came out with his friends for a game of shinny, they would never leave the ice without scraping it clear, and, if conditions permitted, flooding it as well.

His fondest memory over the years was something that happened just after Christmas last year. As usual, Dave had left the shovels along the boards in case anyone had the inclination to shovel. When he came to the rink he found a bunch of teenagers shoveling. It was a hockey team from New Jersey here for a tournament and staying at a nearby hotel. They had not been on an outdoor

rink before. They asked if they could use the rink and if they were allowed to play hockey to which Dave replied, “You cleaned it, you use it.”

Dave was happy to see them back on the rink the following day. Like many kids, the concept of an outdoor rink with no fees and no time limits was a novelty. No doubt the memory of their Bingham experience will linger long after thoughts of how they fared in the tournament.

Why does he do it? “To be involved. To give back to the community. Other people did the work so that my kids could skate.”

The interview had to be cut short because Dave was off to talk to a group of teenagers about how to fill out a grant proposal. He had been asked by Julia Sneyd, Paul Dewar's widow, to meet with the group so they could prepare grant applications to access programs for youth. It is a topic with which he is very familiar, as he spent many years in his job at NSERC informing academics on proper procedures for grant applications.

A fund-raiser is being held at Brigid's Well on March 1st for his wife Angie, a former LCA president, who has been diagnosed with ALS. (Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or Lou Gehrig's disease. (<http://support.alsevents.ca/Donations-forAngelaRickmansparty>))

Family Celebration for OCH Communities

By Sandra Pilote

On Saturday January 18th, about 70 residents of the Beausejour and Beausoleil communities sat down together and enjoyed a full-course turkey dinner. Councillor Mathieu Fleury, chair of the Ottawa Community Housing (OCH) Board and Stéphane Giguère, CEO of OCH, joined the group for this winter celebration.

OCH provided the venue and the funding to cover the meal, as well as gifts for all attendees. For many families, this annual event provides an opportunity for them to get out their homes on a chilly day and to benefit from a hot meal prepared and cooked by someone else. The view of Lowertown from the penthouse at 123 Augusta is an added bonus.

The event was organized by a group of tenants with the assistance of the OCH community development manager. All the tenants who participated walked away with full stomachs and gifts. The children under 5 years were delighted with their toys, while the gift cards for those aged 6 to 12 years are probably already spent. And all ages left with a swag bag filled with assorted goodies.

The best part of the day was seeing people talk to one another and connect with neighbours. Participation in events like this helps to build a stronger sense of community. Hopefully participants of all ages left feeling safer and more united as well as satisfied with their bounty.

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York Street PS School Council

By Christine Kilfoil

The York Street PS School Council has always described itself as “small but mighty”. Prior to 2015, the Council had been dormant for many years. When former school principal Sherwyn Solomon came to the school, he revived it. For the first couple of years, membership was small and funds were low. But with innovative ideas and support from the school administration, community and school trustees, the Council has been able to thrive.

A school council is made up of parents, teachers, principals and community representatives that support and enhance student learning. School councils provide a way for members of the school community to provide advice to and consult with the principal, and to advise the school board on education matters.

This year’s Council is co-chaired by Amanda Graham and Pascale Guilbeault, with Andrew Hill as Treasurer and Christine Kilfoil as secretary. The

Council benefits from the strong support of Principal Andrew Postma, who is the new principal at York Street PS and Vice-Principal Susan Bower. Former school trustee Shawn Menard was a loyal supporter of the council. That support has continued with the present school trustee Lyra Evans, who recently met with the Council at its December meeting and is a strong link between the Council and the school board.

The mission statement for the York Street PS School Council is to ensure that the students of the school receive the same benefit from school experiences such as field trips, movie nights and learning resources that students at larger schools may take for granted. The Council has been a strong advocate for equality of education and believes that no student should lose out on important school experiences because of lack of funds. Fund-raising is a challenge in a small school, but that should not prevent the students from York Street PS from having a full school experience both inside and outside the classroom walls.

The School Council has been innovative. For example, it partnered with students from Algonquin College (who received a course credit) to organize a trivia-night fundraiser at Boston Pizza in Barrhaven a few years ago. Over the last several years, the Council has developed a strong partnership with its counterpart at Broadview Elementary School, who share their expertise and fund-raise on behalf of York Street PS. A joint York Street- Broadview school team for the Ottawa race weekend team is planned. The Loblaws grocery store on Rideau Street has also been a strong community partner and assisted the Council with fundraising and other support.

School Council funds have been used to support a trip for intermediate students to Toronto/Niagara Falls, the purchase of volleyball nets, pizza days, movie nights, sports tournament fees and books and other classroom resources.

The plans for this year include photography lessons for the Grade 6 to 8 classes. Professional photographer and

parent Missy Hill has volunteered to provide the lessons. Principal Andrew Postma is looking for cameras that could be lent or donated to the school.

The Council is also proposing to purchase junior and intermediate books for the school library, which the school advises is badly in need of new books. The school runs a successful reading program for all students in the school, and it is important to have contemporary books that appeal to all types of readers.

The Council works closely with the York Street PS student council, which is hard at work on creating a yearbook for students. A student representative attends parent council meetings to directly share student ideas. The parent council will also be contacting the local university seeking donations of used basketballs and nets. Finally the parent council will be hosting a movie night for the students in February. The Council does accept and is grateful for any financial support from the community to support their work. Donations can be made directly to York Street PS.

The true value of after-school programs

By Gisèle Lamontagne

I’ve often wondered why after-school programs are needed. After all, kids spend all day in school: do they really want to stay in school more a few more hours? And, some of them are old enough to go home alone... so what’s that value?

This question replayed in my mind as I led wellness workshops in the Club 310 and Transitions programs at the Lowertown Community Resource

Centre (LCRC). I decided to ask the older children, those old enough to go home after school, what they thought. I wanted to see if their ideas matched what I had noticed over the months working with them. And they did!

The youths all mentioned that if they went home they’d settle in front of video games, a good way to develop an addiction to them. This is something we see enough of among youth and adults. But even more importantly, all the youths I asked talked about how they met with their friends and developed social skills in their after-school programs.

I read many documents and found that there is evidence-based research to support these observations: after-school programs enhance social and behavioural skills and help participants do better in school, even if the program is not just a homework club. The after-school programs offered by the LCRC provide a mixture of physical activities, social interactions, discussion time and a homework club. This is an excellent mix for young

people who have tried to focus all day in school and still want to acquire new skills and knowledge.

The Club 310 and Transitions programs offer welcoming spaces, skilled and caring staff, tasty and healthy snacks, and fun moments with other youth from the neighborhood. For more information, call the LCRC at (613) 789-3930 and ask for Stephen

Gisèle Lamontagne is a child and youth Counsellor at the LCRC

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- ◆ Youth & Teens: homework club, summer camp
- ◆ Adults and families: counseling, crisis intervention
- ◆ For all: internet access, gardening, food assistance, volunteering opportunities, help with housing, and much more!



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Lowertown Community Resource Centre

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HELP our Centre support vulnerable residents from our neighbourhood! Your contribution will directly assist people in meeting their basic needs.

Visit www.crbv.ca to make a donation and learn more.

Just Voices

By Ann Waters

*Wake up! The earth is changing
And the signs here for all to see
Our planet is in peril
Wake up! And remember
Sustainability*

“Sustainability” may not be the kind of song that one would expect in a choir’s repertoire. Yet it fits in exactly with Just Voices. A 30-member activist choir, we sing music that promotes peace, social justice and environmental responsibility. We also include songs in French, Spanish, German, Zulu and Swahili. In each concert we feature an Indigenous-themed number.

I joined Just Voices in 2012, looking to combine my love of singing and interest in promoting awareness of important issues of the day. I have

gained so much from being part of this wonderful choir: it encouraged me to take up piano at the age of 60. I was introduced to numbers of different issues and types of music. Learning to sing in a group is very challenging but rewarding; we are forced to listen to our fellow choir mates and fit into the performance. And a real bonus has been meeting some superb people who have over the years become very close friends.

The choir was started in 2004 by a group of singers, led by Greg Furlong, who wanted to combine music and the concern for the environment and social justice. We have continued in their tradition of managing the choir in a very collective manner. The music is chosen by both the Music Director Jean Winter and choir members. The volunteer board seeks input from all the members also in matters of arrangements and performance opportunities.

The wide variety of themes in the repertoire is truly exceptional. Indigenous songs have become a regular feature of our concerts; we have sung Susan Aglukark’s “O Siem” and Amanda Rheume’s “Red Dress”. “Who’s gonna stand up and save the Earth” by Neil Young is one of our favourite environmental songs. Women’s rights are expressed through songs like “Makhosikazi” (Women of the World in Zulu) and “Bread and Roses”. But not all songs are serious: our recent humorous reworked version of “Mamma Mia” called “Dougie Ford” is very topical, with lyrics changing along with the political landscape. Audiences love to sing along with this song during our concerts.

Just Voices is all about building community. Choir members support each other in learning the music, but also through friendship outside of rehearsals. We have sung at numerous events

which champion social justice causes: Women’s Day March, Pastors for Peace and Ottawa Riverkeepers. Proceeds from our two annual concerts always go to a local charity, typically chosen by choir members. At last December’s concert we supported Odawa Native Friendship Centre 510 Rideau Drop-in Centre at the request of our Indigenous guest performer Doreen Stevens. Other groups who have received donations are Ancoura, a supportive housing network, Harmony House and Ecology Ottawa.

New members are always welcome. No audition is required, nor is the ability to read music. Just Voices rehearses from September to June on Wednesday evenings from 7-9 pm at the Bronson Centre. If you like to sing and are passionate about the environment and social justice this may be the choir for you!

Winterfest

Par Malika Seguin-Gervais

Dans le cadre de cette édition au thème de la collaboration, j’ai cru bon de partager avec vous une initiative de collaboration communautaire qui dure depuis une décennie. La fête d’hiver populariser dans la Basse-Ville sous le nom de Winterfest est une célébration d’hiver qui perdure depuis plus d’une dizaine d’années, une des majeures collaborations entre CRBVE et ACBV. Le comité des résidents de la Basse-Ville Est et l’Association communautaire de la Basse-Ville, deux comités de résidents engagés qui ont à cœur le bien-être de leur communauté.

Et qui de mieux d’interviewer que Sandra Pilote, résidente de la Basse-Ville depuis plus de trente-cinq ans et entièrement dévoué, corps et âme à la l’organisation et la mise en œuvre de cet événement depuis sa création.

MS: Sandra, pouvez-vous me dire pourquoi La fête d’hiver est importante pour vous?

SP: La fête d’hiver est le jour de la famille, l’objectif est de célébrer les familles de la Basse-Ville. L’objectif est que les parents et les enfants puissent passer du temps ensemble à l’extérieur

et profitez de l’hiver. La fête d’hiver a été l’occasion pour des résidents de patiner de la première fois!

MS: À quoi on peut-on s’attendre lorsqu’on participe à la fête de l’hiver?

SP: On peut toujours s’attendre à la célèbre partie d’hockey entre les résidents de la Basse-Ville et les policiers du Service de police d’Ottawa, et même si nous n’avons pas toujours finaliser les détails de l’événement vous pouvez toujours vous attendre à de la musique, de la danse, de la nourriture et pleins de surprises pour toute la famille.

MS: Pouvez-vous nous expliquer comment on réussit à faire une réussite d’une célébration de quartier pendant une décennie?

SP: Grâce à un comité formé de résidents enthousiaste et dédié depuis plusieurs années et de partenaires engagés.

MS: Pourriez-vous nous donner une raison de participer à la Fête d’hiver ce 17 février au parc Jules Morin?

SP: Venez et rencontrez vos voisins!

J’aimerais conclure mais elle nous a tout dit. Soyez-y grands et petits, célébrez entre voisins la fête de la famille au parc Jules Morin, le 17 Février de midi à quinze heures. Soyez de la fête

Winterfest

This edition of the ECHO’s theme is collaboration. But what is collaboration? While the theme can leave me perplexed, I wanted to share with you a decade-long community collaborative initiative. Winterfest is a winter celebration that has been one of the major collaborations between the Lowertown East Residents Committee (LERC) and the Lowertown Community Association (LCA). The LERC and the LCA are two committed resident-led organizations which are concerned with the well-being of their respective communities. And who better for me to interview about Winterfest than Sandra Pilote, resident of Lowertown for over thirty-five years and completely devoted, mind, body and soul to the organization and implementation of this event since its creation.

MS: Sandra, can you tell me why Winterfest is important to you?

SP: Winterfest happens on and is built around Family Day. The goal is to celebrate families in Lowertown. For parents and children to spend time together outside and enjoy the winter. Winterfest has also been an occasion for many Lowertown residents to skate for the first time!

MS: What happens at Winterfest? What can we expect?

SP: The exciting hockey game between residents of Lowertown and the Ottawa Police Service officers is the type of entertainment not to miss, and although we haven’t finalized all the details of the event you can expect music, dance, food and lots of surprises for the whole family.

MS: Can you share on how to make a community event a success for a decade?

SP: It is the result of the work of a committee made up of enthusiastic and dedicated residents for several years and committed community partners.

MS: And last, what is the ultimate reason to participate in the Winterfest this February 17th at Jules Morin Park?

SP: Come and meet your neighbours!

I would have loved to make a witty conclusion, but Sandra said it all!

On February 17th from 12 pm to 3 pm, celebrate with neighbours at Jules Morin Park. Be part of the celebration: fight winter isolation.

Malika Seguin-Gervais is the coordinator of Lowertown Our Home

Snow Moles: Identify Winter Walking Problems

By John Woodhouse

The 2020 Snow Mole Campaign has just begun and is active until the end of March. Snow Moles are Ottawa pedestrians who volunteer to gather information and report problems about winter walking in their neighbourhood. The Campaign encourages safe winter walking in Ottawa and advocates for

better snow and ice clearance on our sidewalks, pathways and roads where there are no sidewalks.

The Council on Aging of Ottawa is collecting Snow Mole information from a short questionnaire available electronically, and can also be downloaded and printed if you want a paper copy. Anyone can be a snow mole, and seniors and children are especially encouraged to participate, as well as people who use mobility devices (e.g. canes, walkers and wheelchairs). To find out what to do, and to access the

questionnaire, go to www.coaottawa.ca/snow_moles.

Snow Moles can do a winter-walk audit on their own or with a neighbourhood group. On your own--on any day and with a specific destination (bus stop, pharmacy, library etc)--fill out the audit questionnaire online or on paper. The Council on Aging will add your questionnaire to their analysis. With a neighbourhood group, contact a team leader in your neighbourhood and join the group for a organized walk audit lasting about 20 minutes. Con-

tact names for team leaders can also be found at www.coaottawa.ca/snow_moles

In the successful 2019 Campaign, 225 Snow Moles completed the questionnaire. Almost 81% said their sidewalks were unsafe, icy and not well ploughed, sanded or salted. Many people reported falls on their walks and some went to hospital. Other reported that a “fear of falling kept them from going outside”. Most older residents needed to use ice grips on their boots, and/or walking poles as mobility aids.

Winterlude 2020 in the ByWard Market January 31 - February 17

Experience Winterlude 2020 in the jewel of Ottawa -- the ByWard Market! From food tours with C'est Bon Cooking , Copper on Ice at Andaz Ottawa ByWard Market , The Grand Ice Bar at The Grand , Accora Village Bed Race for Kiwanis to Creos Light and Sound Installations: Cycle by Serge Maheu / Illuminart and Oscillation by The Urban Conga , Disegno Fine Jewellery One-Time-Per-Year-Only sale, Sur-Lie Restaurant Ottawa Tastes of Winterlude -- ByWard Market is the perfect destination to celebrate Winterlude 2020!

ByWard Market will be hosting FUN Family Day weekend activities from February 15-17: LEGO pop-up with Dymond BricksFREE wagon rides with Cundell John Stables and a Petting Zoo the kids will LOVE.

- Chainsaw carving (weekend Feb. 8/9 and 15,16 and Family Day: Feb. 17) and free face painting both weekends!
- LEGO POP-UP with LEGO® Master BrickmanGraeme
When: Sat, Feb. 15 / Sun, Feb. 16 / Family Day: Feb. 17, 10am-5pm Where: Urban Barn, 22 York St unit B
- LEGO® Master BrickmanGraeme joins us for Winterlude 2020. Kids of all ages can come help build a wintery theme with Graeme with your favourite building blocks! FREE!

Come be the Y in ByWard at Urban Barn and participate in sharing the story of residents and businesses that make the ByWard Market -- details at byward-market.com!

FREE WAGON RIDES and Petting Zoo

Free wagon rides by Cundell Stables, compliments of the ByWard Market BIA all three weekends of Winterlude, 12-4pm. Petting Zoo is coming to ByWard Market for Family Day weekend for the kids to enjoy: Feb. 15-17, 11am-3pm!

WAGON RIDES

When: February 9, 16; Saturdays: February 8 & 15, and Family Day: Monday, Feb 17, noon – 4pm Where: Pick-up and drop-off is at William Square for wagon rides



PETTING ZOO:

When: Family Day Weekend: Saturday, Feb. 15, Sunday, Feb. 16 and Monday, Feb 17: 11am – 3pm Where: Pick-up and drop-off is at William Square for wagon rides / Petting Zoo is behind Hudson's Bay on George Street.

CREOS Interactive Light and Sound Installations Oscillation and Cycle: Jan. 31 - Feb. 17

Oscillation: George Street pedestrian walkway in front of The Grand Giant crystals that come alive through movement: Oscillation is an interactive installation that uses sight, sound, and movement to

spark community activity and social interaction through play.

Creator and owner: The Urban Conga / Tour producer: Creos

Cycle: William Square, beside Tucker's Marketplace

Creator: Serge Maheu / Production: Illuminart / Tour producer: Creos Inspired by the revolutions of the sun and the moon, Cycle is an interactive installation that illuminates your open space. By moving to the beat of the ambient music, the young and the young-at-heart transmit their energy to Cycle, transforming it into a larger-than-life musical sequencer.

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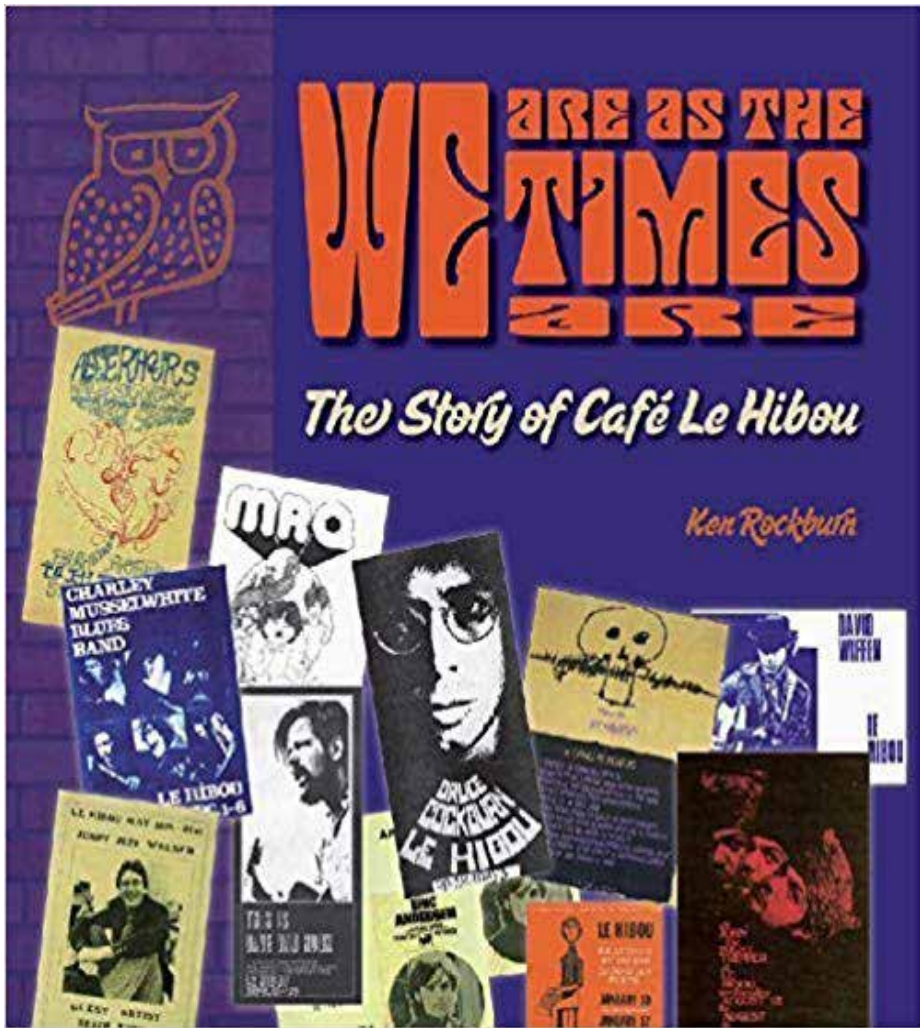
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Books by or about Lowertowners

*We Are as the Times Are:
The Story of Café Le Hibou*
by Ken Rockburn,
Burnstown Publishing House 2015.

Le Hibou was a product of the early sixties and for a time, was considered to be the best folk music club in Canada. When the cafe closed its doors in 1975 it left behind fifteen years of memories. The inspiration for the coffeehouse came from Denis Faulkner with his money and energy supplemented by a small group of like-minded friends. The institution started by this group began in an upstairs apartment on Rideau Street just east of Cobourg and finished at 521 Sussex Drive.

In this book packed with stories about various owners and multiple artists, Ken Rockburn captures the ethos of the times and the rich history of talent that passed through the places. Le Hibou was a space where poetry readings merged with musical performances.

It provided a venue where Irving Layton, Muddy Waters, Gordon Lightfoot, William Hawkins, Van Morrison and many more demonstrated their artistic gifts to Ottawa. And it was the place where Jimi Hendrix went to tape Joni Mitchell's performance after he finished his concert at the Capitol Theatre. The stories in this book provide a remarkable testimony to Ottawa's (and Lowertown's) artistic and social scene in the 1960s and 70s.



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Winter fun on the Sens Rink of Dreams
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    @JimWatsonOttawa

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for FREE!
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**Family Day
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Jules Morin Park
400 Clarence St. East
behind Le Patro**

For more information, contact Sandra @ 613-241-4842

