

**Lowertown Community Association**  
**Association Communautaire de la Basse-Ville**  
**Annual Report 2022-2023 / Rapport annuel 2022-2023**

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## Agenda

1. President's Welcome / Mot de bienvenue de la présidente

AGM Business / Affaires de l'AGA: Archie Campbell, Chair

2. Quorum

3. President's Report / Le rapport de la présidente

4. Treasurer's Report / Le rapport du trésorier

5. Motion to accept Treasurer's Report / Motion d'acceptation du rapport du trésorier

6. Elections / Élections - Archie Campbell

Current candidates / Candidat.es actuels.elles:

- President / Présidente - Sylvie Bigras
- Vice-Presidents / Vice-présidents (2) - Sandra Milton, Warren Waters
- Secretary / Secrétaire - Nadia Stuewer
- Treasurer / Trésorier - Lloyd Morrison
- Directors / Administrateurs:
  - Transport / Transports - Dominic Santos
  - Safety & Security / Sûreté et sécurité - Sandra Milton & Julie Lanteigne
  - Planning / Planification - Warren Waters
  - Housing & Homelessness / Logement et itinérance - Bruce Kelly & Josh VanNoppen
  - Heritage / Patrimoine - vacant / poste vacant
  - Friends of Lowertown Parks / Amis des parcs de la Basse-Ville - Sandra Milton
  - Communications - vacant / poste vacant
  - Arts & Culture - vacant / poste vacant

7. Messages from our elected representatives / Messages de nos élues

8. Update from Lowertown Community Resource Centre / Mise à jour du Centre de ressources communautaires de la Basse-Ville

9. Update from Committee Chairs / Mise à jour par les président.es des commissions

## President's Report

I write this report the day after having returned from a three-week business trip to Europe. While Canada's youthful few hundred years cannot match Europe's thousand-year old history, I cannot help but compare some of the beautiful historic quarters I have just visited to our beautiful Lowertown and Byward Market districts.

Our vibrant outdoor spaces and historic buildings harkening back to the beginnings of Bytown, the energetic street life and meanderings of residents and tourists – there is a similar vibe to those marvelous European city centres.

The LCA celebrates this history and we continue to work on your behalf to honour and protect Ottawa's oldest and historic neighbourhoods as well as making our community a safe and wonderful place in which to live, work and visit.

### Our Priorities

1. Animation and Beautification – while our grant application to Crime Prevention Ottawa for funds to beautify and light up our community was not successful, we will continue to look for funds to help beautify and animate Lowertown. Our thoughts:

- More places to “be” – benches, public spaces;
- Greenery – trees, planters, flowers, winter greens, tiny forests – a thoughtful plan to bring colour and shade to our community;
- Lighting – across the entire community – tasteful, elegant and respecting our historic character;
- A seamless transition between the Byward Market and Lowertown – ensure that the improvements and beautification of the Byward Market extend throughout the Lowertown areas as well, both East and West!
- Art and more art...

2. Social Services - LCA has long advocated that the concentration and proliferation of social services in our community has had a massive negative impact on residents, businesses and visitors. MOST importantly, the vulnerable are not getting the help they really need because shelters are overwhelmed and too many “silos” exist. Many say the system is “broken”.

We are heartened by the strong support of our City Councillor in advocating for all of Ottawa's 24 Wards to provide small-scale social services (emergency housing, transitional housing, mental health and addiction services) to those in need. The entire city has a duty of care to its citizens. We applaud City Council for acknowledging this in their latest strategic priorities and will continue to pressure all Councillors to roll up their sleeves and help the vulnerable in their Wards. We also thank all service providers (who are overwhelmed by the demands placed upon them) for continuing their important work and their conversation with LCA and other community representatives, and for working with us to create a better city-wide plan.

3. Truck Traffic – the conversation around truck routes and the unacceptable amount of large truck traffic on King Edward and through the downtown core has escalated. This is good news and we will continue to press for a change to the current laissez-faire approach of doing nothing while the situation worsens and becomes more and more dangerous.

4. Heritage – Lowertown is the oldest and most historic area in the nation’s capital. We continue to work on protecting our precious heritage, including the updating of the plans for the two Heritage Conservation Districts west of King Edward (Byward Market and Lowertown West) and a draft plan for the conservation of MacDonald Gardens park (heritage designated in 2017).

### **Volleyball in Lowertown**

The LCA obtained a grant from Volleyball Canada from its “Sport For All” program, and is currently working closely with the Lowertown Community Resource Centre (LCRC) to deliver an indoor program, free of charge, at the Routhier Community Centre. We will continue the program outdoors at Jules Morin Park over the summer months. We have also obtained tickets to an international volleyball event at TD Place and are bringing volleyball participants, as well as students from York Street Public School and École Catholique Ste-Anne to one of the matches.

### **We Need Your Help**

The LCA is led by dedicated volunteers – a group of individuals committed to representing you, the residents of this great community. We celebrate and honour this beautiful place we call home. But we cannot do it alone – if you have a few hours a week to spare, we’d love to welcome you to our leadership team! The following are vacancies we are wishing to fill – please consider joining us in:

- \* Communications – LCA website (badly in need of updating), Twitter and Facebook platforms;
- \* The Echo – our lovely community newspaper is in need of a Leader – we have dedicated volunteers who write, edit and produce but if you would like to put in few hours every few months, we would love to have you help out!
- \* Heritage – an important Committee led by Nancy Miller-Chenier and Andrew Waldron is now looking for new Chairs – Nancy and Andrew will help in the onboarding process...

### **And In Conclusion**

Thank you to all of you for continuing to advocate on behalf of Lowertown; your participation in our events, monthly meetings and AGM is important, and very much appreciated!

Very best regards,



Sylvie Bigras  
President LCA  
#MyLowertown

**Lowertown Community Association**

**Annual General Meeting Minutes**

**Zoom – June 13, 2022**

Chair: Archie Campbell

Quorum:

- Threshold met.

Agenda:

- Accepted.

President Report – Sylvie Bigras

- Board will to work with community stakeholders in a collaborative manner to achieve beneficial outcomes for the Lowertown community.
- Conducted monthly meetings on Zoom.
- Board Subcommittees remained active during the past year, following multiple files as they progress.

Treasurer Report – Lloyd Morrison

- Presented 2021 financial statements which were accepted.
- Positive cash flow and surplus of income vs. expenses allows for continued support of the Lowertown Echo and the association's other operations in 2022.

**Board Elections:**

**Executive:**

President - Sylvie Bigras

Vice-Presidents - Sandra Milton, Warren Waters

Treasurer - Lloyd Morrison

Secretary - Vacant

**Directors:**

Arts & Culture Committee Chair - Kendra Hughes

Communications Committee Chair - Vacant

Friends of Lowertown Parks Committee Chair - Sandra Milton  
Heritage Committee Chairs - Nancy Miller Chenier & Andrew Waldron  
Housing and Homelessness Committee Chair - Bruce Kelly  
Planning Committee Chair - Warren Waters  
Safety and Security Committee Chairs - Julie Lanteigne & Sandra Milton  
Transportation Committee Chair - Dominic Santos

Thank you to our past Co-Chair Liz Bernstein, our former Secretary Avery Burns, Fiona Barbaro Sant, former Co-Chair of our Arts & Culture Committee, and to the editor of Community newspaper, The Echo, John Chenier

**Next Meeting: September 12, 2022**

## **Arts and Culture Committee**

This year was a quieter year for the Arts and Culture Committee. As part of the LCA's wider priorities on beautifying our neighbourhood, we put in a proposal to Crime Prevention Ottawa in partnership with Ottawa Inner-City Health in hopes of running a program to beautify our neighbourhood. Unfortunately, the process was highly competitive and we were not successful, however, beautifying Lowertown remains a priority both for the Arts and Culture Committee and the LCA.

## **Friends of Lowertown Parks (and facilities)**

Coordinator: Sandra Milton

The Committee continued to fulfil its key mandate to promote and protect our Lowertown parks; to collaborate with residents actively involved as park volunteers; and to support the City of Ottawa in keeping the parks accessible and safe for all residents.

The Lowertown parks include Bingham, Bordeleau/King Edward, Macdonald Gardens, Cathcart Square, Cumberland, Jules Morin, King Edward, Linear, Raphael Brunet, and Rose.

Park Cleanups are conducted each spring and fall by Friends of Lowertown Parks and Park Adoptees.

Key Projects:

Macdonald Gardens Heritage Conservation Plan - This work has been underway in collaboration with Friends of Macdonald Gardens and the LCA Heritage Committee 2021-23. The City of Ottawa is developing specific guidelines to protect the heritage attributes of this designated park and to provide direction for maintenance and any future renewal and life-cycle projects in the park.

Bingham Park Revitalisation – This ongoing work in collaboration with the Friends of Bingham Park has involved a City of Ottawa survey of residents; a preliminary schematic overview; and a commitment for wider community consultation before the plan is final.

Rose Park- Tree removal and new plantings completed 2022-23; additional cleaning of weeds and brush overgrowth requested.

King Edward Ave - 31 trees cut down along both east and west side of street in February 2023; replacement trees in May 2023.

Facilities - Champagne Baths are fully open; Routhier Community Centre has reopened with active engagement for community programming.

Ongoing Engagements - park walkabouts with city officials, staff and residents; ad hoc public engagement on city projects; planning for return of theatre in the park for 2023.

We continue to be concerned about the neglect and safety concerns of the land around Porter's Island Bridge owned by the City. The land could easily be transformed into a healing garden with thinning trees for all to wander and enjoy a pathway to the river.

## **Heritage Committee**

Co-Chairs: Andrew Waldron and Nancy Miller Chenier

The Committee continued to fulfil its key mandate: identify, document and promote the protection of heritage buildings, historic landscapes and places of cultural significance in Lowertown.

### **Heritage Conservation District Plans**

In November 2021, City Heritage staff initiated a review and update of Lowertown's two Heritage Conservation District (HCD) plans – Byward Market and Lowertown West. Two working groups were established for ongoing consultation starting in early 2022 with walking tours and continuing with several virtual meetings.

Information about the projects is available on the City of Ottawa public engagement website. Wider community consultations are planned in June 2023. The current timeframe suggests that the plans will be finalized and to city council in the fall of 2023.

### **Designations**

Of the multiple continuing requests for Part IV heritage designations throughout Lowertown, the community was pleased to have our long-standing request for York Street Public School honoured in August 2022.

The LCA request in May 2021 for a Heritage Conservation District Plan for the Macdonald Gardens area was acknowledged by the Heritage Planning Section at the City of Ottawa in July 2022 but no timeline has been provided.

As well, we continue to assist the Friends of Macdonald Gardens in securing a conservation plan for the heritage park designated in 2017. To date, ongoing work with the City of Ottawa yielded a draft plan seeking preliminary feedback in September 2022. To date, no specific date for consultation with the wider community is known.

### **Development**

In conjunction with the LCA Planning Committee, the Heritage Committee monitored and provided advice on heritage issues related to proposed developments, zoning and public policy proposals affecting our area.



For example, the proposed development at 109-115 Dalhousie Street is situated in the Lowertown West HCD and as such required an assessment of the heritage impact. Other proposed developments in Lowertown's HCDs involved a pre-consultation when the applicant is at the preliminary stages of considering development.

### **Engagement**

During this Covid period, the opportunities for engagement with residents to educate about our Lowertown heritage were somewhat limited. We did however initiate some in person meetings in the Routhier Community Centre when it opened in the spring of 2023.

The Lowertown Echo also provided some opportunity to highlight the significance of our community's heritage and we continued to work with individual residents to explore the architectural and historical associations of particular buildings.

### **Housing and Homelessness Committee – Le comité pour le logement et les enjeux liés à l'itinérance**

Président: Bruce Kelly

Cette année fut une année dédiée à mieux comprendre l'approche de la Ville d'Ottawa quant à l'aide apportée aux personnes en situation d'itinérance pour nous permettre de proposer des solutions novatrices et appropriées.

#### ***Questions et réponses et panel de discussion***

Pour ce faire, nous avons d'abord organisé une session de questions et réponses à l'automne 2022 avec Deirdre Freiheit, PDG des Bergers de l'espoir et Wendy Muckle, PDG (à l'époque) de Ottawa Inner City Health. Cet exercice consultatif fut apprécié par les membres de la communauté. Elle a permis de mieux comprendre l'offre de service, la vision de ces organisations, et comment elles se perçoivent comme acteurs dans notre communauté.

A l'hiver 2023, nous avons aussi organisé un panel de discussion sur l'aide apportée pour appuyer les personnes en situation d'itinérance. Cet événement a engendré une participation record pour un événement de notre association, avec plus de 65 participants. Le panel était constitué de Paul Lavigne et Kale Brown, fonctionnaires de la Ville d'Ottawa, Kaite Burkholder Harris, Directrice générale de Alliance to End Homelessness - Ottawa, et Tim Aubry, Professeur en psychologie de la Faculté en sciences sociales de l'Université d'Ottawa.

Une discussion franche et fort intéressante a été entretenue sur quatre volets : 1) les résidents à long terme des refuges d'urgence; 2) la surconcentration des services sociaux dans le quartier Rideau-Vanier, 3) le rôle du nouveau conseil municipal dans l'identification de solutions tangibles, et 4) comment les résidents et résidentes de la Basse-Ville pourraient-ils/elles y contribuer positivement.

### ***Vers un changement de paradigme***

Ces efforts de concertations ont permis à l'Association de la Basse-Ville d'adopter une vision holistique pour mieux venir en aide aux plus démunis de notre communauté. L'enjeu des personnes en situation d'itinérance n'appartient pas uniquement à la Basse-ville ou au quartier Rideau-Vanier. C'est une réalité à laquelle fait face toute la ville d'Ottawa. Les solutions doivent prendre en considération une approche qui inclut l'ensemble des quartiers. La surconcentration des services dans Rideau-Vanier engendre des résultats mitigés. Une approche participative et inclusive permettant à tous les quartiers de la ville d'Ottawa de faire leur part dans la délivrance des services sociaux est nécessaire si nous voulons vraiment appuyer les personnes en situation d'itinérance. Il n'est pas réaliste de demander au quartier Rideau-Vanier de porter à lui seul cette responsabilité.

### ***Vers des solutions tangibles***

L'Association communautaire de la Basse-Ville d'Ottawa a commencé et continuera à faire la promotion de cette approche holistique et à travailler avec ses partenaires afin de réaliser un changement de cap menant à la répartition équitable des services sociaux sur le territoire de la ville d'Ottawa.

Bien qu'au stade embryonnaire, nous croyons que la nouvelle approche devrait être fondée sur trois piliers:

- 1) Permettre à du logement abordable de s'enraciner à Ottawa non pas en visant la construction d'immeubles, mais par l'entremise de transactions immobilières. La ville d'Ottawa doit établir ou travailler avec, une organisation qui se dévouerait à l'achat d'actifs (c.-à-d., maisons, condos dans tous les quartiers d'Ottawa) pour ensuite les transformer en biens locatifs abordables. Cela permettrait d'offrir rapidement un toit aux personnes à faible revenu et de commencer à inverser la crise de logement auquel fait face cette population vulnérable.
- 2) Centraliser l'offre de services offerts aux personnes en situation d'itinérance. Ne remettant aucunement en question le bon travail des différentes organisations, nous sommes d'avis qu'il y a trop de joueurs en place, ce qui a un impact sur les résultats escomptés. En fait, cette multiplication de l'offre de service fait en sorte que diverses organisations sont en compétition pour le peu de ressources disponibles. De plus, cette multiplication a une incidence sur la coordination globale des services qui, par ricochet, affecte la capacité de desservir la clientèle ciblée. La ville d'Ottawa doit donc établir une offre de services chapeauté par une organisation pan-ottavienne.
- 3) Chaque quartier a un rôle à jouer afin de venir en aide aux personnes en situation d'itinérance. Ceci dit, la capacité des quartiers peut varier pour différentes raisons valables. Un quartier qui ne peut pas accueillir des services sociaux devrait avoir la possibilité de payer sa part financière. Autrement dit, un quartier devrait avoir les mécanismes nécessaires pour lui permettre une imposition spéciale de ses citoyens et ainsi, payer sa juste part dans l'effort collectif pour aider les personnes en situation d'itinérance.

## **Conclusion**

L'Association communautaire de la Basse-Ville d'Ottawa continuera à militer pour assurer un changement de cap au sein de la ville d'Ottawa, engendrer la déconcentration des services sociaux et surtout assurer que tous/toutes les résidents/résidentes puissent jouir d'une qualité de vie adéquate et humaine, et ce, peu importe le statut social.

## **Planning Committee**

Chair: Warren Waters

This year our planning committee set ourselves three priorities. First, a **community benefit agreement (CBA)** has been signed between Ottawa Community Benefit Network and **Ottawa Community Housing**, but its first pilot implementation is yet to start. We hope lessons learnt from the pilot to test the CBA approach will assist OCH to be welcomed more warmly in all neighbourhoods in our city, rather than concentrating all affordable housing in a few areas.

Second, the **Byward Market secondary plan**: after 6 months of asking the City, we were finally told in mid May that: "The ByWard Market secondary plan, although on a list with other required secondary plans, is not presently resourced, but should Council elevate it as a priority and identify new resources (staff and funds) to support it, then our department would undertake the work." The LCA is disappointed since it has asked for such a plan since 2012 and since it believes the city should prioritise the planning of its declining downtown.

By intent or neglect, the role of ByWard has been changing from a mixed use residential-commercial district, as outlined in the prior official plan, into an entertainment district. The Public Realm Plan adopted (but unfunded) last year confirms this direction but the City has never elaborated its vision for ByWard in an open and consultative way. There were consultations on the Public Realm Plan but they were never permitted to look at the larger issues of land use planning. The New Official Plan just takes the implicit vision for ByWard contained in the Public Realm Plan and only promises a secondary plan to connect other policies and initiatives.


Just before the end of May the LCA was finally told about the City's latest attempt to create a governance model to streamline management of the area and develop its economic opportunities: the long awaited **ByWard Market Strategic Alignment Initiative**. It is naïve to think that as stated in the report: "the new District Authority will be the custodian of the vision, economic prosperity, and vibrancy of the historic ByWard Market district". Like Ottawa Markets, the Authority is simply taking over more city services without a strong authority or clear sustainable funding. More importantly, it is created principally with an economic lens, without a wholistic view of the major issues facing the area. The LCA was never consulted on this new district authority and was only informed the day prior to the report being made public. We ask that residents at least be represented on the board, and the boundaries not exclude the most challenging areas of the Market.

Thirdly, **city-wide Rezoning** discussion papers are at <https://engage.ottawa.ca/zoning>. Unfortunately Discussion Papers are written as staff preferred outcomes, not to promote any discussion. No options are provided, conveying the clear impression of predetermined outcomes. While increasing housing

density is clearly desirable, considerations of liveability are ignored. Surveys for the rezoning leave residents wondering whether public views are wanted. There is limited ability to provide meaningful responses. We have requested City Planning to meet and discuss the rezoning implications for Lowertown but the City has yet to agree to meet. Going forward we hope to see more useful and appropriate discussion of options.

**Specific development applications:**

 <p>21<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2022</p>	<p><b>112 &amp; 134 Nelson</b> (near Rideau) – Applications for Zoning By-law Amendment and Site Plan Control were submitted, and LCA opposed the application because of its density, small unit size, heritage impacts, privacy concerns, unsafe design, security and parking impacts on local streets. City File lead informed us that a revised submission is expected and the developer promised to involve their neighbours in developing a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design plan. File lead Phone: 613-580-2424, ext. 21607, <a href="mailto:Adrian.vanWyk@ottawa.ca">Adrian.vanWyk@ottawa.ca</a></p>
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	<p><b>200 &amp; 201 Friel</b> (at Chapel &amp; Beausoleil Dr) – Applications for Zoning By-law Amendment and Site Plan Control were submitted by Ottawa Community Housing and LCA sent our concerns about the excessive height, safety &amp; security, lack of parking, and lack of family sized units. File lead Phone: 613-580-2424 x27967 <a href="mailto:Erin.OConnell@ottawa.ca">Erin.OConnell@ottawa.ca</a></p>
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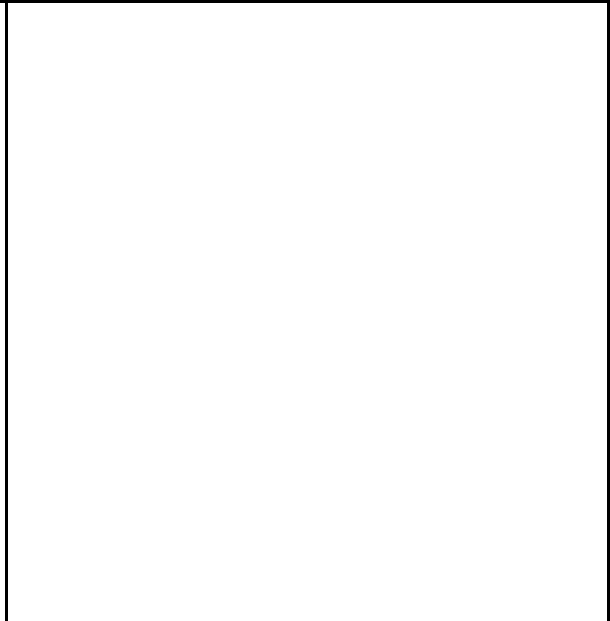
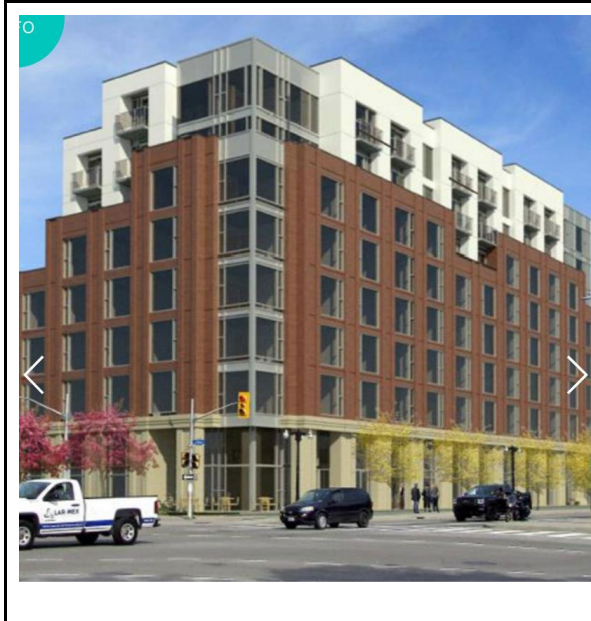
**253, 255 and 257 York Street and 78 and 80 Nelson** (at York) – Zoning By-law Amendment to permit conversion of two buildings to one building containing 57 dwelling units and 38 rooming units. Currently the two buildings have 37 dwelling units and 7 rooming units. This was scheduled for the City Planning Committee Feb 27 but was pulled last minute when the owner changed their application somehow. The planner promised to send us the revised report before it goes back to the city planning committee. File lead: Jean-Charles Renaud <Jean-Charles.Renaud@ottawa.ca>



**109-115 Dalhousie** (near Bolton)– Applications for Zoning By-law Amendment and Site Plan Control submitted. Staff have provided feedback in July 2022 and are waiting on applicant response. File Lead: Nader Kadri

**275 King Edward** (at Murray)– Zoning By-law Amendment was appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal. Waiting on decision from Ontario Land Tribunal related to discussion between the applicant and appellants since August 2022. File lead Seana Turkington

Phone : 613-580-2424 x27790



**641 Rideau** (near Cummings Bridge)–  
Applications for Official Plan Amendment and  
Zoning By-law Amendment approved in Spring  
2022. No Site Plan Control application has been  
submitted. File lead: Simon Deiacco

## Safety Committee

Co-Chairs: Julie Lanteigne and Sandra Milton

The Committee continued to fulfil its key mandates:

**General advocacy, support and ongoing Collaboration:** This includes ongoing interactions and contacts with organizations such as Ottawa Public Health, Causeway Needle Hunter Program, City of Ottawa Community Outreach program, OICH, OASIS, Ottawa Police Services, By-Law, Ottawa People's Commission. City of Ottawa Leadership table, Subcommittee on mental health, Ottawa BIA Safety Committee, OPS Neighbourhood Resources Team, Councillor Plante's office, City Council engagements, Lowertown Community Resource Centre and Lowertown East Residents Group.

**Community Engagement:** Lowertown resident walkabouts with the Councillor, Police, Community Outreach, OASIS, Causeway Needle Program, OPH, and other services. Affiliation with Action Sandy Hill, Vanier Community Assoc, Hintonburg Community Association, Federation of Community Associations (FCA).

**2022-23 Concerns:** unsafe physical spaces - pedestrian underpass near the Rideau Centre, Porters Island greenspace; concentration of unsheltered individuals - untreated mental health, open drug use and discarded drug paraphernalia, multiple encampments, unsanitary toileting; dangerous traffic condition – speeding on neighbourhood streets, King Edward Avenue pollution from truck and car traffic.

We continue to be concerned about the neglect and safety of the heritage designated Porter's Island Bridge owned by the City. Currently there is only one bridge on and off the island; a secondary walking bridge would be a safety precaution.

## Transportation Committee

Chair: Dominic Santos

### King Edward Avenue

As you can imagine most of our time in the past year has been spent discussing King Edward Avenue (KEA) and specifically the alignment of the truck route using the street to get between Gatineau and Highway 417. There have been several meetings to discuss options which come down to a tunnel or a bridge and LCA priorities. The official LCA preferred option is the bridge that would be located in Ottawa east. The NCC is conducting another study on truck routes throughout the National Capital Region. The city conducted a destination study but it is unlikely this will fully reflect the truck route issues. We have been pushing city staff to conduct a separate study on the truck route but they insist they will do this only after a 6<sup>th</sup> crossing has been announced by the federal and provincial governments, effectively abandoning their responsibility to residents that have endured the truck route for decades. Although a 6<sup>th</sup> crossing is being suggested, we continue to advocate for alternate solutions that could be

implemented fairly quickly and inexpensively, which could include trucking hubs and improving public transport, and pedestrian and cycling connections between Ottawa and Gatineau.

### **Alexandra Bridge**

The LCA has created an Alexandra Bridge Rehabilitation sub-committee to act on behalf of the association. We thank Josiah and Donna for volunteering their time. They will be attending meetings with the Alexandria Bridge Coalition which is a large group of stakeholders working on saving the bridge and fully rehabilitating it. The coalition requested the LCA attend these meetings so our sub-committee will ensure resident concerns and perspectives are included throughout the process. They will report developments arising from these meetings.

### **Sub-Committees**

We are looking to form two additional taskforces/sub-committees, one to advocate for changes to the truck route and another one to revitalize King Edward Avenue to its former glory. The intention with these committees is to have one cohesive voice to ensure the city is listening. Since there are so many potentially interested parties to these issues including Action Sandy Hill, residents, businesses, homeless shelter, hotels, the University of Ottawa, Rideau Centre; we could be more successful if we are all advocating as one.

### **Traffic Calming**

A few weeks ago, we met with Councillor Plante to discuss traffic calming for the Lowertown community and I thank her for making herself and staff available. We have developed a brief regarding the general ongoing issues, areas to be prioritized and solutions to address them. We are hoping to meet with the councillor and city staff in the coming months to discuss the LCA's priorities for traffic calming and move forward with implementation.

### **Upcoming City Transportation Projects for the Lowertown community**

- Redesign and reconfiguration of the node that includes Rideau/Sussex and Rideau/Mackenzie King Avenue – I believe Rideau/Sussex is the busiest pedestrian intersection in the city and will greatly improve how we walk and cycle between Lowertown and Centretown and accessing the canal
- Redesign and reconfiguration of the node around Sussex/St. Patrick
- Safe intersections at KEA/York and KEA/St. Patrick
- Bike lanes on Cumberland Street



## 2022 Finance Review

The 2022 financial statements were approved by the Association's Executive at the June 4, 2023 Executive meeting. The statements reflect our four primary activities: the operations of the Bingham Park Community Rink, the publication of the Echo newspaper, events and administration.

### **OPERATIONS OF THE BINGHAM PARK RINK**

The city grant of \$5,325 for operating the Bingham Park rink remained the same as in the previous season. Rink expenses increased compared to 2021 because the rink was open for 50 days which resulted in more paid rink supervision hours. With COVID restrictions relaxing, a volunteer appreciation event could be held to recognize the work done by rink maintenance volunteers for their past two seasons of work. The surplus from the rink operations declined to \$1,289 from \$2,873 in 2021 because of the aforementioned rink supervision hours. In 2023, the surplus is expected to increase since there were fewer operating days which resulted in lower rink attendant wages. 2023 also marked a changing of the guard as Measar Musa took the reins as Rink Manager from Dave Bowen who capably managed the rink for the past number of years. The Association is always looking for volunteers to supervise and to assist maintaining this valuable community winter asset.

### **PUBLICATION OF THE LOWERTOWN ECHO NEWSPAPER**

The Echo had a full publication year with 5 issues. In 2022, the average revenue from advertisers per issue declined to \$3,280 from \$3,542 in 2021, as Lowertown businesses continue to face challenges recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. The average cost per issue declined slightly to \$3,512 in 2022 from to \$3,673 in 2021. Costs included the design software licence, printing, distribution and credit card processing fees. As a result, the Echo incurred a larger deficit of \$1,445 compared to \$705 in 2021. In 2023, the operating deficit is anticipated to persist as production costs increase due to inflation and advertising revenue is challenged due to an uncertain business environment. The Echo is always looking for volunteers whether it's for editing, writing, distribution, collection, sales, etc.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Administration costs were \$799 in 2022 compared to \$705 in 2021. Costs included the Post Office box rental, the LCA website hosting and a subscription to ZOOM to support our online meetings. In 2022, our Commercial General Liability insurance premiums increased from \$561 to \$815 because of a universal increase to the city's Community Partner Insurance Program. In 2023, administration and insurance costs are projected to increase with or above the inflation rate.

### **EVENTS**

In 2022, the LCA received the following grants from: Marchés d'Ottawa Markets for the Home Project Art Exhibit in the ByWard Market Building and Ottawa Bilingue for the Cundell Stables Art Exhibition by Karen Bailey. In 2023, the LCA continues to support community events such as the Lowertown East Winterfest which has resumed after COVID restrictions abated and a new grant from Volleyball Canada for its Community Support for All Initiative.

**CONCLUSION**

In 2022, the Association had a deficit of \$1,716 compared to a surplus of \$4,581 in 2021. Cash flow was negative, \$2,081 compared to a positive \$1,362 in 2021. At the end of 2022, our cash balance was \$15,993 compared to \$18,014 at 2021 year-end. Our cash flow was negatively impacted by the decline in Echo Ad revenue and the increased Bingham Rink Attendant wages and community insurance premiums. On the other side of the ledger, the LCA's effort to pay its bills in a timely manner has resulted in negative accounts payable balance of \$102 because the CRA reversed another late penalty which will be credited against future payroll deductions. Overall, the LCA is still in a good financial position to fund the Lowertown Echo and the Association's other operations in 2023 but should explore fundraising initiatives to strengthen its future financial position.