

# The Lowertown Echo de Basse-Ville

LE JOURNAL  
COMMUNAUTAIRE  
DE LA BASSE-VILLE

THE LOWERTOWN  
COMMUNITY  
NEWSPAPER

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### UPCOMING COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

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

Next regular meeting dates:  
November 12 - AGM  
December 10

For more information visit:  
[www.lowertown-basseville.ca](http://www.lowertown-basseville.ca)

### SIGN UP FOR THE LCA NEWSLETTER

Send your contact details to [info@lowertown-basseville.ca](mailto:info@lowertown-basseville.ca) to receive updates from the Lowertown Community Association.

### ACCOUNTANT NEEDED

The Lowertown Community Association is looking for a volunteer with bookkeeping experience to assist and support the Lowertown Association's financial documentation and management.

For more information, write to us at:

[info@lowertown-basseville.ca](mailto:info@lowertown-basseville.ca)

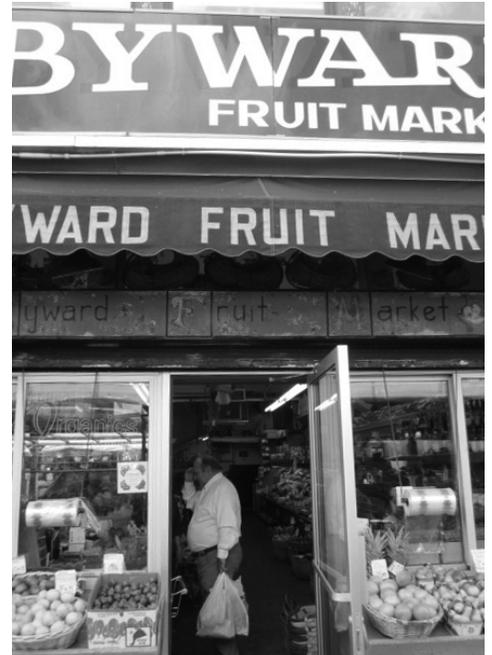
## NEW VISION FOR BYWARD MARKET

Residents are invited to express their ideas on the future of the Byward Market.

Sylvie Grenier - Lowertown and the Byward Market area are changing rapidly. New residents are moving into condo developments in all parts of the area. Small food retailers are closing. Other small retailers are also closing, reducing the mix of retail stores available to residents and visitors. This trend is combined with an increasing number of restaurants and bars. From 2002-2011, the number of restaurants increased from 88 to 106 and the number of bars and nightclubs increased from 21 to 27. Over the last year alone the market lost seven retail stores, two of which were food retail stores. The Byward Market is now left with only one year-round fruit and vegetable store.

Businesses serving alcohol can command higher rents, putting pressure on independent specialty food stores and affecting the Market's ability to maintain its historical function as a farmers' market. The increasing seating capacity of establishments serving alcohol also increases the noise and disruptive behaviour that revolve around those businesses. This has a negative impact on the attractiveness of the area as a place to live and to visit.

(Continued on page 2)



The Byward Fruit Market at 39 Byward Market Square is the only year-round vegetable and fruit retailer left.

## LOWERTOWN'S COMMUNITY POLICE

Working together for a safer community - La sécurité de notre communauté, un travail d'équipe. Why Lowertown's community officer, Ryan Pierce, enjoys his unique neighborhood.

Lynn Gagnon - Constable Ryan Pierce grew up in Ottawa and worked for Ottawa Bylaw Services where he got a taste of what policing work could be like. Ten years ago he joined the Ottawa Police Service and hasn't looked back since. Growing up, he enjoyed playing an active role in his own community, making him a natural fit for community policing.

Working as a police officer is not your typical day job, but from Constable Pierce's description, community policing takes it to another level. "There isn't really a typical work day. There are a

lot of night and weekend events, for example, on Saturday we are having an open forum on youth and policing." This is beyond the five core crime prevention programs with which Pierce is already involved: The Home Security Program, Child Print, Neighborhood Watch, Operation Identification and Business Crime Prevention.

So how does Lowertown keep him busy? "Every area is unique. Here we mainly have property crime, theft from vehicles where someone will break in to steal five dollars in change on your dashboard, but this stuff



Constable Ryan Pierce poses outside the Ottawa Community Police Center on Springland.

happens everywhere." Working in Lowertown allows Pierce to see why the residents love the area so much "It's very vibrant. It's alive, there is always something going on, some event, anything - it makes it a nice place to work."

(Continued on page 6)

## OKTOBERFEST COMES TO BYWARD MARKET

**Byward Market marks the holiday season with leiderhosen and cowbells as Oktoberfest festivities arrive in Lowertown.**

*Katherine Solomon* - It's that time of year again when most people's thoughts turn to cozy sweaters, lined boots, comfort foods, and evenings at home by a crackling fire. But in the Byward Market, we are thinking of bratwurst, sauerkraut, pretzels, Bavarian dancers and music, and more!

The 3rd Annual Byward Market Oktoberfest and Volksmarch are taking place on Saturday October 20, with free family programming from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Activities like face painting, barrel races, and wagon rides from Cundell Stables are sure to please every little Oktoberfest aficionado.

For the third year in a row, you can watch the GTEV Maple Leaf Almrausch dancers perform in traditional German attire, while the musical stylings of Schteev und die Lederhosers take you away to another time and place! Begin the day with a Volksmarch, a walk throughout the Byward Market which will lead you to places you may not have yet discovered. The Volksmarch is a tradition in Munich where townsfolk greet the farmers with their harvest, walk about through the town, and arrive at the Oktoberfest, ready to celebrate. The Byward Market Volksmarch brings you right to the official beer tent on Clarence beside the Cornerstone Bar and Grill.

Once you have your fill of entertainment, be sure to stop by one of the many participating

restaurants to try their Oktoberfest samplings. The Sausage Kitchen at 5 Byward Market will be vending their own variety of Oktoberfest sausages at the corner of York and Byward streets, while surrounding food retailers are offering up pretzels, pierogies, and other Bavarian delights! Staff at The Laff on York will be well-dressed for the day's festivities, and will be serving up drinks well into the evening, so the festivities will last as long as you can.

After the Oktoberfest comes Christmas season programming, where you can expect carollers and wagon rides, all free, to entertain you as you shop for your dinner parties and gift-giving needs. New for 2012, the Byward Market building at 55 Byward Market Square, will be lit for the holidays, and a special lighting ceremony is planned for the beginning of December. Keep an eye out for details on our website.

Visit our website at [www.byward-market.com](http://www.byward-market.com) for more information on the Oktoberfest and Christmas programming. ☺

*Katherine Solomon is the Communications & Special Events Coordinator for the Byward Market Business Improvement Area (BIA).*



Oktoberfest with its traditional German attire and Bavarian cowbell ringing is a popular tradition in the Byward Market. Festivities take place at 11 AM on 20 October this year.

### NEW VISION FOR THE MARKET

*(Continued from page 1)*

It has been ten years since area stakeholders and the City have assessed the changes taking place in the market and attempted to map out a future vision. Residents of Lowertown are invited to join in the development of a new vision for their community. At the request of the Lowertown Community Association (LCA), the Market BIA and the Market and Safety Committee, the City has hired the firm Project for Public Spaces (PPS) to develop a vision for the future of the Byward Market. PPS has extensive experience in the development of public markets across North America.

The LCA wants to ensure that Lowertown residents are well represented. As part of this process, the LCA has invited residents

to fill out an online survey at <http://tiny.cc/cym1kw>. In addition, residents are invited to attend a public meeting hosted by the LCA to be held on Monday, October 15 at 6:30 PM at St. Brigid's, located at the corner of Murray and Cumberland. Saint Brigid's has graciously offered the space for the event. LCA will compile residents' opinions and suggestions and pass them on to the PPS consultants. ☺

*The Lowertown Community Association invites residents to attend a public meeting on the future of the Byward Market on **Monday, October 15 at 6:30 PM** at St. Brigid's Centre for the Arts, located at the corner of Murray and Cumberland Streets.*



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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF SAINT BRIGID'S

*Julienne White* - In 1888, after discussions with parishioners at the overcrowded bilingual Cathedral, Archbishop Duhamel established an English speaking parish in Lower Town for the descendants of the first wave of Irish immigrants in 1827, arriving to work on the canal, and of those of the second wave in the 1840's, fleeing the Irish potato famine. The design was entrusted to the architect J. R. Bowes and the construction to John J. Lyons, both of Ottawa. The cornerstone was blessed in 1889 and in August 1890 a crowd of 3200 attended the dedication service. The first marriage was that of Elizabeth Devine and John Bingham, nephew of parishioner Samuel Bingham, future mayor of Ottawa. One of the final funerals was that of a great-great-nephew, Jack Bingham.

This active parish of 450 mainly Irish families had clubs, choirs, many athletic teams, with players like King Clancy of Ottawa

Senators fame, and schools, with the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception playing a key role. A strong history of social justice began with the early Saint Jerome and Saint Vincent de Paul Societies and continues to the present day with the Sister Eleanor Hennessey Fund and Saint Brigid Summer Camp. A soup kitchen begun by the parish in the basement is now the Shepherds of Good Hope based in the former St Bridget School. Two major expropriations of land and homes in Lower Town by governments in the 50's and 60's and changing demographics greatly reduced the number of parishioners. The numbers stayed low, despite the addition of Filipino and Latin American communities in the 1990s and eventually led to closure and the deconsecration of Saint Brigid's on September 16th, 2007.

In honor of the church's rich Irish history, members of the Ottawa's Irish community purchased the heritage building to establish St



The beautiful vaulting of St. Brigid's was designed by architect J. R. Bowes.

Brigid's Centre for the Arts, home of the National Irish Canadian Cultural Centre. The space is now used for various social and cultural events, including a variety of Irish cultural programming, musical concerts, art exhibitions, fundraisers, conferences and private functions. ❏



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[info@sbcottawa.ca](mailto:info@sbcottawa.ca)  
 613 244 7373

## RAW SEWAGE IN THE OTTAWA RIVER

*Liz Bernstein* - Lowertown Community Association joined with Ecology Ottawa and community associations across the city to launch a petition addressed to the provincial and federal governments calling for funding of the Ottawa River Action Plan (ORAP). To date, more than 6,000 Ottawans have signed the petition.

This funding is critically important so that the City of

Ottawa can upgrade its sewer system and stop the dumping of untreated sewage into our rivers. In 2011 alone, the nation's capital dumped more than 500 million litres of untreated sewage into our rivers. Remember the first rainy weekend in September? According to City of Ottawa statistics, more than 63.5 million litres of diluted sewage ran out of the old combined sewers and stormwater pipes

into the Ottawa River on September 8 alone. In August, federal minister John Baird indicated support for ensuring that in 2014 (when federal infrastructure dollars are made available to municipalities) funding the ORAP will be a priority. That same strong commitment to provide \$50 million in funding by 2014 has not yet been received by the Government of Ontario, so there

is still a lot of work to be done. LCA wrote MPP Madeleine Meilleur regarding this issue, but we have not yet received a response. ❏

*To add your name to the growing number of Ottawa's citizens who are calling for a sewage-free river, go to [ecologyottawa.ca](http://ecologyottawa.ca) to sign the petition and spread the word.*



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# UPDATE ON RIDEAU STREET RECONSTRUCTION

## Reconstruction project to be completed in 2013.

Sylvie Grenier - The two year reconstruction of Rideau Street between Dalhousie Street and the Cummings Bridge is progressing well. Both the underground and surface work on the segment from Dalhousie Street to King Edward Avenue is intended to be nearly complete this year. Temporary asphalt will be laid over the sidewalks and the contractor will install pavers until winter weather halts progress.

Work on the south side of the section between Chapel Street and King Edward Avenue should be completed by the end of the year. As soon as weather permits next spring, work will begin on the north side of the street as well as on the segment between Chapel Street and Cummings Bridge. For information on the traffic routes during construction please search the City of Ottawa website for 'Rideau Renewal'.



Now a familiar, but not welcome, sight on Rideau Street will be with us through 2013.

# WILLIAMS STREET PEDESTRIAN AREA NOW A REALITY

New pedestrian corridor championed by the former environmental advisory committee, local residents and businesses takes shape.



Construction of the William Street Pedestrian Area began on September 17 and will be completed over eight weeks with new lighting, trees, planters and benches.

Nicolas Moyer - Construction on the William Street pedestrian area has begun. While approval for construction of the pedestrian area was provided by city council last fall, the local merchants' association wanted to wait until the tourism season calmed down before digging up the area. The work began on September 17 and is scheduled to take eight weeks. For three summers now, the area has been blocked off with temporary barriers, and residents have gotten a chance to get a feel for what the new pedestrian area will be like. But the permanent upgrade now underway promises a number of improvements. The construction

work will include widening the sidewalks on William Street and creating boulevards on York Street and concrete crosswalks to make it easier to cross from the pedestrian area to the ByWard Market building. The boulevards on Clarence Street at William Street will also be widened. New lighting, trees, planters and benches will be added to the area. The pedestrian area was championed by the former environmental advisory committee, as well as many local residents and businesses, and may pave the way for the creation of other vibrant pedestrian areas in the city.

## MESSAGE FROM THE LOWERTOWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



Marc Aubin is President of the Lowertown Community Association

Dear Neighbours,

There's a lot of talk about experts lately. We are told that we need to listen to the "experts" when making decisions. For anyone who has been dealing with issues, such as King Edward Avenue, homelessness, discarded needles, or trying to get a better deal out of a developer's plans for a skyscraper next to their 2-storey home, there's no shortage of "experts" willing to tell local residents what to think.

We know better, I hope! Despite often useful advice from the "experts", we must not forget Lowertown's local experts. These are the people who live here, the people who care about this community and have an emotional attachment to this place. Lowertown, for better or for worse, is part of who we are - it's part of our identity. Our feelings and attachment for Lowertown, as difficult as they can be for engineers and scientists to measure, are still important. Sometimes those sentiments are all we have, but they are ours and they form our own personal brand of expertise about the place we live in. Whether we look at King Edward's recent redevelopment,

the renewal of Rideau Street, the proposed widening of Sussex, the Claridge development in the Wedge, or any number of other city endorsed projects, the voice of residents needs to be heard. In fact it should be the most important voice of all. The next time someone tells you that things can't change in Lowertown, because the "experts" say you're wrong, I'd like you to remind them that you are an expert - an expert resident! Your opinions and your feelings for this neighbourhood must be a key part of any debate which affects your home. If it had been up to the experts at city hall to decide our fate years ago, all of Lowertown West and the Byward Market would have

also been demolished in the name of "urban renewal." If you think King Edward is bad now, the experts at city hall wanted to put a freeway through that section of Lowertown and Sandy Hill in the 1960's. Thankfully, we had leaders at the time who knew better than to ignore the voice of residents. It wasn't necessary for them to have specific expertise to know that what was proposed was wrong. All they needed to do was to listen to the real experts - the residents - and have the courage to lead based on the values of the community.

Sincerely,  
Marc Aubin

# LOWERTOWN'S CASTLE TURNS 100 YEARS OLD

**When it opened in 1912, the Chateau Laurier brought elegance and sophistication to Canada's capital and over the years has hosted heads of state, celebrities and guests from around the world while drawing its staff from the local Lowertown area.**

*Nancy Miller-Chenier* - The Chateau Lafayette is much older but the Chateau Laurier is definitely more architecturally grand. For Lowertown early residents looking up to the area's top corner, the Chateau Laurier with its towers and turrets looked like a castle. Designed in the style of a French chateau, it has stood for 100 years as a place for politics, pleasure and employment.

Both the Chateau (and the Union Station across the street) were commissioned by Charles Melville Hays, president of the Grand Trunk Railway. He perished on the Titanic in April 1912 just before the grand hotel opened. Construction of the Chateau had begun in 1909 on land that was part of an Ottawa public park and continued in 1929 with an addition by the new owners, the Canadian National Railway.

The contribution of the architects (Ross and MacFarlane and others) is well documented. However, records of the workers who erected the steel frame, laid the stones, decorated the turrets are not so readily available. We know that journeymen carpenters working on the hotel were paid 25 to 30 cents per hour. But we do not know which workers from Lowertown, if any, laid the first gleaming copper roof, built the limestone walls, installed the Tiffany windows or the Belgian marble floors.

Lowertown stories about the Chateau are more apt to be about the people who worked there after it was built. Staff for the hotel, especially during the early years, lived within easy travel distance or in some cases, lived in the hotel. As late as 1946, chambermaids were offered a room and meals as part

of their employment contract. At a time when many nearby homes still lacked adequate sewage systems and water supplies, many employees must have marvelled at the rooms that had the luxury of private baths or even washstands with hot and cold water. Ottawa directories show

that Lowertown residents such as C. Ammirala, F. Calliot and E. Sbuttoni worked in the kitchen as chefs or cooks. J. Chartier was a manager in the laundry while E. Dunn was a bellhop and M.G. Holtz was a doorman. In 1915, waiters such as Alfred Bordeleau lived on Clarence Street while by

1923, there were waitresses such as Maria Lefebvre on Cumberland. In 1965, a controversial move to replace long time male lounge waiters with young female waitresses corresponded with a job ad that called for waitresses to be "neat, courteous and aggressive."

**"All the senators and MPs had rooms ... Businessmen, famous actors, sportsmen and sports teams — they all came to stay."**

*-Jean Claude Côté, a bellhop for 46 years at the Grande Old Dame on Rideau Street.*

Two former Lowertown residents left some record of their Chateau experience. Abraham Lief, who was the first Jewish appointment to the Supreme Court of Ontario, lived on various streets including York and McGee. During the First World War, one of his many part-time jobs included working as a

bellhop at the Chateau Laurier. Rouge "Red" Tasse was known as the Chateau Laurier barber who travelled with and shaved King George VI during the 1939 Royal Tour. Called "the kingpin among the capital's barbers" and the "tonsorial artist", many of his neighbours at 356 St Patrick Street were skeptical that "Red" would be allowed anywhere near the royal tonsils. ❏

*For more information on the Chateau Laurier, Heritage Ottawa will present a lecture titled "Ottawa Union Station and the Chateau Laurier at 100" as part of the Heritage Ottawa Annual Lecture Series at 7 PM on Wednesday November 21, 2012, at the Ottawa Public Library Auditorium, 120 Metcalfe St. Admission is free and light refreshments will be served.*



With the exception of traffic on Rideau Street, Lowertown's Castle hasn't changed much since this early 20th century postcard.



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## LOCAL BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT: TUGAL'S BAR

**Tucked away in Lowertown East, the Echo finds a piece of history, a Portuguese outpost, and a proud Lowertown businessman.**

*Peter Gould* - Hidden away on a residential Lowertown street a few blocks north of Rideau Street is a tiny but important scene of life in the Portuguese-Canadian community in Ottawa. It's easy to miss Tugal's, located at 74 Cobourg Street, behind its unassuming storefront free of any signs. Tugal's only seats 27 customers, but with its name cleaved from the name of the ancestral homeland, it is close to the heart of Portuguese-Canadians who flock from across the city to unwind over a beer with friends and perhaps watch news from Portugal or a televised soccer match from Portugal. Tugal's opened in 1996 when owner Joe Guimaraes took over the bar from the former Rendezvous. Based on his social network, Joe quickly built up a steady clientele within the city's Portuguese community. Tugal's is essentially a bar but does offer



Joe Guimaraes, owner of Tugal's Bar.

sandwiches and french fries. Regulars recommended the Bifana, a marinated pork sandwich that is a speciality of Tugal's. Although the beverage of choice appears to be Moosehead draft beer, Tugal's owner Joe also proudly offers a line of excellent ports.

The first-time visitor to Tugal's is struck by the warm ambience of this tiny bar, the walls of which are literally festooned with photographs, banners and postcards celebrating Portugal and its soccer teams - as well as local Lowertown superstars. Pride of place goes to the soccer team for the city of Porto, which is Joe's hometown. There are also autographed photographs of Lowertown sports heroes such as Phil Cote, who played with the Ottawa Rough Riders, and Dan Boyle, defenceman who before joining the San Jose Sharks, had played with Tampa Bay when they won the Stanley Cup in 2004.

Tugal's is not only a cornerstone of the Portuguese community. The Ottawa Hash House Harriers, who hold monthly runs around the city occasionally pick Tugal's for their meeting place after runs. Occasional diplomats sometimes stop by for a drink many of the regulars live nearby. Ron Lefebvre, 71, lives "199 steps away" and has dropped by Tugal's for a beer every day since it opened.

A piece of local history, Ron has lived in the neighbourhood his whole life and jokes that he used to buy his cold cuts at the Confiserie Cobourg that operated in the same location before becoming the Rendezvous bar in 1979. Confiserie Cobourg was operated by Dianne and Jean-Gilles Morin, son of former Ottawa city councillor Jules Morin. Jules Morin was also one of the building's owners.

In fact, this location has a long history as a small but vital center of commerce in Lowertown East. Before the Confiserie Cobourg, the building was home to a local grocery store, Epicerie Lachaine, opened by Ludger Lachaine in 1930. His daughter, Fernande Lefebvre, told the Lowertown Echo that she had many happy childhood memories of living above the Epicerie Lachaine. Hers was a large family with eight children sharing the four



Tugal's replaced the Confiserie Cobourg.

bedrooms. Mr. Lachaine saw and treated the customers of the store as friends and family, and they often visited the Lachaine home on holidays and for dinner. Mrs. Lefebvre noted the many changes in the neighbourhood since those days, recalling the cobblestones of Heney Street and the streetcars that ran up Cobourg to the streetcar barn on Tormey Street. She also expressed fond memories for the presence of the Soeurs de Bon-Pasteurs who provided so many important services to working-class families in the neighbourhood. The convent building currently serves as the Embassy of the People's Republic of China on St. Patrick. Mrs. Lefebvre noted that during the 1930s, the nuns even took in laundry from people in Lowertown who did not have access to laundry facilities. ❏



Lachaine outside the Epicerie Lachaine at Heney and Cobourg.

### LOWERTOWN POLICING

*(Continued from page 1)*

Constable Pierce makes a point of trying to attend as many community meetings as he can but he is quick to say that he doesn't want to do all of the talking "I would like for people to bring their issues up at these meetings. I want to hear what they're saying. It's an opportunity for us to work together."

He believes that the best thing about a community is that when neighbors get to know one another they can work towards a common goal together and

achieve something great.

If you have a concern, feel free to contact Constable Pierce. "Some people don't like talking to the police right away, but those small issues which are a concern to them are the reason that I'm here. Drop me an e-mail, give me a call, we don't have to have a meeting, just contact me." ❏

Constable Ryan Pierce  
613.236.1222 ext. 8520  
piercer@ottawapolice.ca

### Call for Skating Rink Volunteers

Some say the Bingham Park Skating Rink volunteers must be abominable snowmen, some say they're crazy for being outside for so long when it's so cold. But really, whatever you call them, their tireless efforts make our local rink a success every winter. In fact, without them, there would be no rink!

We need your help to ensure we have another successful year of skating, hockey, and winter sun at the Bingham Park Skating Rink. If you have icicles in your blood and hockey in your heart, or just want to help, send us an e-mail at

info@lowertown-basseville.ca.



## IS ROAD WIDENING ETHICAL? IS IT SAFE?

**The widening of Sussex Ave will increase traffic speeds and risks the safety of pedestrians and cyclists without improving traffic needs.**

*Nathan Davis* - On the heels of Ontario's Chief Coroner releasing his report reviewing the deaths of 95 pedestrians in 2010, Ottawa traffic engineers seem fixated with increasing speed and traffic volume in Lowertown.

It is well studied and should be well understood by Ottawa traffic engineers that higher vehicle speeds not only increase the probability of an accident, but increase the severity of an accident. In fact, Philippe Landry, the city of Ottawa's Manager of Traffic Management and Operational Support Branch, admits in the Coroner's report, "that when dropping the speed limit from 50 km/h to 40 km/h there have been NO substantial changes in vehicle speeds". King Edward Avenue is a perfect example of this fact. It is well

understood that drivers travel at speeds they feel comfortable and safe to travel at. So if speed limits don't control speeds, what does? Quite simply, it's road design. Fundamentally, wider roads increase speeds, narrower roads decrease speeds.

So the question is this: If engineers know Lowertown is dominated with cyclists and pedestrians AND that speeds will increase by widening a road, is it ethical to widen that road? After all, engineers wear an iron ring to, allegedly, remind them to "design for safety" and to do their due diligence so no one will be injured.

Let's look at the Sussex Renewal Project; right now the NCC and the city of Ottawa are planning the final stages of the Sussex Renewal, a project designed to

facilitate higher volumes of cycling and pedestrians. The incorporation of wider sidewalks and cycling lanes is intended to help draw patrons up toward Rideau Falls and the Governor General's Estate. Unfortunately, speeds on Sussex are already 50 km/h and higher in off-peak times. Yet Ottawa traffic staff are calling for a larger radius curve at Bolton Street AND a widening of the roadway. Both a larger curve and widening the road will increase speed. Are the traffic engineers ignoring the safety of pedestrians and cyclists?

Ottawa traffic staff admits it's the road design that controls speed. Yet the design they want will only increase speed. What traffic policy allows cyclists and pedestrians to be put at risk? What policy allows traffic staff to

put commuter convenience before human safety? When does advocating for higher vehicle speeds constitute professional misconduct?

Engineers have a professional obligation to hold safety above all; in fact Ottawa's Transportation Master Plan reiterates that. If you increase the speed of vehicles in close proximity to pedestrians and cyclists you're not insuring safety, you're endangering human life. Is this road widening ethical, is it safe? Studies say it isn't safe. What would Ontario's Chief Coroner say? ❏

*Nathan Davis is co-chair of the King Edward Task Force*

## FALL GARDENING IN LOWERTOWN

**Fall bulbs are truly buried treasure when they erupt in Spring colour almost before Winter's snows have melted. Try some new varieties or even garlic this fall for a special Spring treat.**

*Sarah Truswell* - When you plant your bulbs this Fall, remember:

**Bigger is better.** Look for fat, firm bulbs without mushy spots.

**Wait for it.** Don't plant them until soil temperatures are below 12°C and remember that the ground will be slightly warmer than the air temperature.

**Odds are easier on the eye.** Plant them in groups of odd numbers for a more pleasing look.

**Sun.** Most bulbs will do best in sun - at least six hours of it.

**Drainage.** Don't plant your bulbs in that swampy part of your garden. They like good drainage or they will rot underground.

**After they've bloomed, leave that foliage alone.** The plant will sink vital nutrients back into the bulb for next year.

Finally, remember to plant the bulb at least three times as deep as the bulb is tall. For an extra special surprise, peel back the sod in your grassy lawn and place a few bulbs underneath (laying the sod back on top) for a spring surprise. The creative gardener can also try planting them in layers and groups that burst with colour all at once, or that dovetail back to back for long lasting colour.

My favourite bulbs for fighting late Winter chills are early Spring bulbs. Look for: Glory of the Snow, Crocus, Winter Aconite, Trout Lily, Dog Tooth's Violet, Snowdrop, Hyacinth, Spring Starflower, Dwarf Spring Iris, Summer Snowflake, Striped

Squill, Siberian Scilla, and Early Tulips.

Mid-Spring bloomers include: Ornamental Onion, Camassia or Quamash, Fritillaria, Grape Hyacinth, Daffodil, and Tulips.

Late Spring beauties are: Ornamental Onion and Foxtail Lily.

Garlic is another and unusual fall bulb, but one that is particularly rewarding. When planted in late Fall, the gardener will be rewarded with tender, delicious scapes in the Spring, and a whole new bulb in early Summer. Garlic also does double duty in my garden as squirrel repellent. Lots of cloves planted among the other plants make for a nasty surprise.

Other tricks to deter those relentless rodents include commercial repellent recipes like Havahart's organic products, homemade repellents of cayenne pepper and garlic powder, and of course wire fencing. Remember to reapply repellents after rain, and if unsightly fences are as unsavoury as the animals themselves, try laying the wire horizontally over your beds when they're bare.

My all-time favourite and the best deterrent I've found by far is the Scarecrow motion activated sprinkler. Those little blighters really hate getting blasted by water, and the Scarecrow is on guard 24/7. It will set you back about \$75, but since I got it, my squirrel problems in the vegetable garden have ended. In the end, when it's difficult to forage in your garden, the squirrels will go elsewhere. ❏

**More than just tomatoes taking root in Lowertown vegetable gardens this fall.**

It seems these days that I see more and more of our neighbors putting their soil to service, and figuring out what vegetables will grow well for them.

Gontran Bolduc, at FireStation No. 5 on Bruyère Street, created a community garden for his tenants. When I stopped by, their brussel sprouts, beets, kale, cabbage, and tomatoes were thriving. This is just their first season and he says, that it's been a learning process. Next season he plans to test the soil and create a cistern to collect water off the roof. He feels that the garden is not only an investment in his property, but also in his tenants and the neighborhood.

Marian's garden on St Andrew is just one of a number of gardens popping up on her street, St Patrick, and Cathcart, to name just a few. Those with only balconies, like my neighbor, Jeff on Cathcart St, take advantage of containers in which herbs and salads do well because they're so flavorful when fresh. ❏

# LE MANOIR MACDONALD RAYONNE DE CHANGEMENTS

Annie Mercier - Situé au 110 rue Cobourg et au 123 rue Augusta, le Manoir MacDonald regroupe deux édifices de la Société de logement communautaire d'Ottawa (SLCO). Depuis plus de deux ans, 'l'initiative des communautés saines' a été lancée par la SLCO, afin d'améliorer la qualité de vie des résidents vivant dans des logements subventionnés.

Depuis le début de l'initiative, la SLCO a pu compter sur l'appui de divers partenaires dans la communauté, soit : les agents de sécurité et les agents au service des locataires et des communautés de la SLCO, le Centre de ressources communautaires de la Basse-Ville, Options Bytown, John Howard Society, le service de police d'Ottawa, le projet de sé-

curité 'Basse-Ville, notre chez nous' et les résidents du Manoir MacDonald.

Beaucoup d'actions ont été entreprises au Manoir MacDonald depuis deux ans :

- des consultations et un sondage faits auprès des résidents ont permis d'identifier les préoccupations des résidents et de cerner des priorités.
- de nombreuses rencontres, ateliers, BBQ, ainsi que du porte-à-porte ont été organisés par les résidents et leurs partenaires afin d'informer et de sensibiliser les résidents sur ce qui se passe dans leurs édifices.
- un cercle de locataire a organisé plusieurs activités (fête de

Noël, soupers communautaires, ateliers d'art, ventes de garage, soirée de jeux de société).

- marches de sécurité dans les édifices (plusieurs fois par semaine).

Ces actions, entreprises par les résidents et pour les résidents, ont permis de réduire plusieurs activités non-désirables au sein de leur communauté, ce qui a contribué à l'augmentation de leur sentiment de sécurité.

La clé du succès de cette initiative est l'implication des résidents. Ce sont les personnes qui vivent au Manoir MacDonald, qui connaissent le mieux les problématiques qui y existent et qui sont aussi le plus en mesure de contribuer à la résolution de

plusieurs de ces problématiques. Les partenaires communautaires facilitent et renforcent le travail des résidents.

Nous sommes fiers de partager ces initiatives qui démontrent que les résidents ont leur communauté à cœur. Et nous sommes confiants que ces actions contribuent à bâtir une communauté saine où la sécurité et le bien-être sont bien présents.»

Annie Mercier est Agente de développement communautaire au Centre de ressources communautaires de la Basse-Ville



## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

**Our Lowertown Police Officer:**  
Ryan Pierce: piercer@ottawapolice.ca

**Life Threatening Emergency or Crime in Progress** 911

**Other Emergencies or General Police Inquiries**  
613-230-6211

**Crime Reports Call Centre**  
613-230-6211 ext 7300

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

**By-Law Enforcement (for syringe or crack pipe pick up)** 311

**Ottawa Public Health (for reporting found needles)**

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

## YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

### LA COMMUNAUTÉ À BESOIN DE VOUS!

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

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

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