

The Lowertown
L' **Echo** *de la Basse-Ville*

LE JOURNAL
 COMMUNAUTAIRE
 DE LA BASSE-VILLE

THE LOWERTOWN
 COMMUNITY
 NEWSPAPER

Gratuit

www.lowertown-basseville.ca

Free

Upcoming Community Association Meetings

Regular LCA Meetings are held at 7 PM on the second Monday of each month at the

Routhier Community Centre
 178 Guigues Ave

Upcoming Meetings:
 January 13
 February 10
 March 10

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

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

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A Supervised Injection Site in Lowertown

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A SUPERVISED DRUG INJECTION SITE IN OUR COMMUNITY?

Nicolas Moyer - The idea of a supervised injection site in Lowertown is not new. Many are familiar with Canada's first such facility, called "InSite", in Vancouver's Downtown Lower East Side, and while the conditions in Lowertown are not so extreme our community does share many of the general environmental conditions that led to the creation of InSite. Namely, drug use, crime and homelessness are all found condensed in a relatively small area. Though in fairness the perceived scale of these problems varies depending on who you ask.

Over the years, groups advocating a supervised injections site have launched a few attempts to

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A mock supervised injection site sparked debate about a potential SIS in Lowertown.

REBIRTH OF A LOWERTOWN DINER

After 70 years in Lowertown, Mellos' home cooking away from home has earned a special place in the hearts of many Ottawa residents.

Peter Gould - No tourist wandering out of the Byward Market on to Dalhousie Street could miss the vintage neon sign with the zany arrow directing you inside to the luncheon counter at Mellos. It seems like a beacon from another time and place. Stepping inside, however, introduces you to a unique phenomenon in the city of Ottawa as Mellos experiments with a vision to preserve the timeless comforts of home cooking away from home by day, by offering a whole new dining experience by night.

The original owner, Gavros Mellos, was attracted by the long narrow layout of the location when he opened his ice-cream parlour in 1942. During the Second World War, Mellos became a full-fledged

dining establishment and eventually became one of Ottawa's most celebrated all-night diners. The clientele at Mellos always reflected the two faces of life in the Byward Market area: the working masses by day and, after dark, bar crawlers, taxi drivers and other denizens of the night. In the 1970s, revellers returning from the raging

No texting allowed. We come here to talk, not to text.

discos in the Hull sector of Gatineau at three in the morning could find sustenance and a rare camaraderie at Mellos. During the 1980s, an emerging nightclub scene in the Byward Market brought a new younger crowd to the area that collided with the old world of battle-hardened beerhounds at the Raceway Tavern and the spectacularly colourful prostitutes that strolled the

corner of Dalhousie and Clarence Streets. The night crew at Mellos was afforded a sometimes bizarre panorama of the human condition, but those years of notoriety have given Mellos a special place in the hearts of many Ottawa residents. Starting sometime after the millennium, Mellos began eliminating overnights and now closes at 11 pm.

On most days, irrepressible server and co-owner Leisa Bell is the first voice you hear when you walk into Mellos. She is at turns joyous and profane as she greets every customer as they enter, teases other regulars and calls out their orders to Sam as he works the grill. Stepping into Mellos is very much like stepping into a second home where you are always known, loved...and fed. It's very much a social experience. "No texting al-

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



My mother died in a tragic accident on Cathcart Street in the spring. She fell off her porch while trying to put food in a bird feeder and hit her head

on the concrete walkway. She died a week later. She was 58. It has been devastating. For someone as busy as myself, there is some regret I did not see my mother more, even though she lived only a block away.

We need to cherish the people around us. It is a cardinal rule that we need to follow: for the strength of our families, and the strength of

our community. We also need to be aware of how fragile we are and to be very careful in our day-to-day activities. Do not take unnecessary risks like climbing up on kitchen counters or porch railings. Tragic accidents will happen.

In September, another very challenging experience also showed me the important presence of people in my life. I took a leave of absence to defend Lowertown residents at the Ontario Municipal Board. I saw some troubling things at the hearing as I fought the City and the lawyers representing Claridge. However, I also saw something else that was quite remarkable. I saw a whole team of Lowertown residents unite and join

me to prepare for and fight the case.

For anyone who has been to court, you will know that this was no simple affair. It was an extremely stressful and challenging contest. We are still waiting for the final decision of the adjudicator, Mr. Marc Denhez, of the Ontario Municipal Board. But regardless of the decision an important outcome of this hearing was that many residents came together and built strong bonds that will likely last a lifetime.

There is no doubt that the key to a successful community association is our people power. But, how do we keep ourselves motivated as we face rich and powerful forces that are not always working in our

favour? Vibrancy is a word that has been on my mind lately. We need to find ways to communicate how awesome a place we live in. We need to find ways to bring design and an artistic flare to what we do. We need to find ways to wow ourselves and others and be hip in our own sort of way. How do we create this energy? I think that Nuit Blanche is a great example of creativity in action. How can we be like "nuit blanche" in what we do year-round, in the design of buildings and streets, and the displays and signs of our businesses and institutions?

Marc Aubin is President of the Lowertown Community Association.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

364 St Patrick

By the end of the year, the City will likely deal with the application to rezone 364 St-Patrick for a mixed-use nine storey building at the same time as it approves a new zoning for the properties along King Edward changing the zoning from residential to a Traditional Main Street Zoning to comply with the Official Plan. This new zoning will allow commercial and residential development up to six storeys.

325 Dalhousie & 141 George (Claridge Development)

The OMB will shortly announce its decision on the appeal to the increased height approved by City Council for 325 Dalhousie and 141 George. Nevertheless, Claridge is proceeding with the internal demoli-

tion of the former Union of Canada building on Dalhousie.

245 Rideau St (Metro)

Claridge has submitted a site plan application for a new mixed-use development on the site of the Metro at the corner of Rideau and Cumberland. Claridge is planning three 28-storey condo towers with 578 residential units and 658 underground parking spaces.

Bingham Park

The Bingham Park Revitalization project is complete following the installation of a new play structure and several benches. The LCA is seeking proposals for public art installations. Contact info@lowertown-basseville.ca for more information.



Jules Morin Park

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

Sussex Street

Construction has begun and will continue until mid-December 2013, followed by a pause in work over Winter. Construction will resume in Spring 2014 and continue until late Fall 2014, with final paving and landscaping planned for 2015.



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VIGNETTE DU VILLAGE: SAM ZUNDER



Until its doors closed in 1994, Zunder's Fruitland was an icon in the Bytown Market. Photo: Ottawa Jewish Archives

Reviving vivid memories of a closely knit community with families from diverse cultural backgrounds in the 1930s.

Elaine Sigler - Sam was born on Christmas Day in 1926 at the recently built Ottawa Civic Hospital on Carling Avenue. On the day he was born, his father had to walk all the way from the hospital to their house on Cumberland Street, as there was no public transportation available. Rounding the family were Sam's siblings, Israel, Mark, and Miriam.

Sam's childhood was spent in and around the Lowertown area where the family was part of a close knit Jewish community. The children played together and attended Hebrew schools in the area. The

Talmud Torah School for Hebrew and Jewish studies was located on George Street, at the current site of the Salvation Army.

In summertime, Sam had vivid memories of swimming in the Rideau River behind the convent on St Patrick Street and playing basketball with neighbourhood kids. During wintertime, he played hockey on the street with 'horse pucks' - leftovers from the local peddlers and milkmen who drove their horse-drawn carts through the city streets. He also remembered skating in Angle-

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LOWERTOWN LOST AND FOUND — CLARENCE STREET (EAST)

One of the last remaining examples of a typical French working class rowhouse in Lowertown was once home to the founder of the Caisse Populaire Sainte-Anne.

Thomas Sloss - This summer, I was hired by the Lowertown Community Association as a student heritage researcher tasked to uncover information on Clarence Street, east of Anglesea Square (formerly Franklin Street until 1875). I was not prepared for the sense of community, the passion for heritage, or the rich historical narratives that I encountered in my short eight week assignment.

In particular, the rowhouse of 416-420 Clarence Street East has a fascinating history. While parsing the Ottawa City Directories which are publicly available online at Library and Archives Canada I began to notice

trends in the occupancy. This residence has always been connected in some manner to the Paquette family, and later, the Labelle family. Specifically, Wilfrid C. Labelle, listed as the owner of 416, caught my eye. Labelle's occupation, "mess. Exchequer Court", stood out against the typical trade-oriented workforce in the area.

After some archival detective work, I began to realize the extent of Labelle's community connection. I was able to confirm that Labelle was integral in founding the Caisse Populaire Sainte-Anne, May 31st, 1912 (the second Caisse Populaire outside of Quebec, and the first institution of

its kind for Lowertown's French community). The bank originated in the basement of the St. Anne's Parish. Also notable was Labelle's involvement with the St. Vincent de Paul society, where he was vice-president in 1938.

416-420 Clarence Street East itself is among the last remaining examples of a typical French working class rowhouse in Lowertown East. The lot, originally purchased by Jean Baptiste Paquette from the Crown in 1875, has remained relatively unchanged. Its unique architecture includes a front-sloping gable roof that interrupts the eaves line.

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416-420 Clarence Street East is among the last remaining examples of a typical French working class row house in Lowertown.



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SUPERVISED

Continued from page 1

build such a site in Lowertown. Until recently, these concepts remained vague. This changed in 2013 as the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre has worked with partners on a proposal to exempt them from Canada's drug laws and allow them to open a supervised drug injection facility. The group, along with the Drug User Advocacy League, the Campaign for Safer Consumption Sites and doctors from the Ottawa Hospital, hope to complete the application by December. The group expects an answer from Health Canada as early as six months after applying.

If such a site is to be created everyone expects it would be located in Lowertown, or in our immediate vicinity. So while the details of this proposal are not yet public, this has not stopped debate from taking hold

between impassioned residents.

On October 21st the Lowertown Community Association (LCA) hosted a meeting to allow residents to hear the pros and cons of a supervised injection site in our neighbourhood. The LCA is to be commended for hosting a successful high-intensity meeting with one of the highest attendances of any meeting in recent memory.

While we await the full injection site proposal to become available, in light of the passions involved the Echo Team felt this subject needed to be covered in our December issue. Without taking a position for or against, we have chosen to allow two of the presenters from the October 1st meeting to share their views in writing with our readers.

We hope you will find their contributions useful and we encourage you to send in your opinions on the subject to thelowertownecho@gmail.com

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON A SUPERVISED INJECTION SITE IN LOWERTOWN?



The Echo wants to hear from you. We would like to feature your thoughts on the proposed SIS in Lowertown in the next issue of the Echo. Send your comments to thelowertownecho@gmail.com. Be sure to include your name if you want it published with your comments.

SUPERVISED INJECTION SITE ISN'T THE ANSWER

It would have very little impact on HIV, HCV, and overdose for Ottawa addicts. The addiction cycle must be broken.

Chris and Lisa Grinham - It's no secret Ottawa has a drug problem, those of us living in Lowertown are all too aware of it; we see it every day. One only has to stand near the Shepherds or Salvation Army for a moment to watch Ottawa's drug trade in full swing.

Our residents and businesses are subject to a gauntlet of drug related activities including panhandling, prostitution, theft, assaults, and the list goes on. Many people feel unsafe on our streets making it difficult to raise a family in our neighbourhood or run a business.

With the help of Dr. Mark Tyndall, the Drug Users Advocacy League (DUAL), Sandy Hill Community Health Centre and the Campaign for Safer Consumption Sites (CSCS) have teamed up to put forth an application to the federal government for a Supervised Injection or Consumption site (consumption also allows the smoking of drugs on the premises) in Ottawa, most likely in our area. They claim it's needed to address issues of disease (HIV and HEPC), overdose death and reduce visible drug use. On the surface it sounds like a good idea, but look deeper and the facts simply don't support it. Here's a quick run through.

HIV

The City of Ottawa report "Sexually

Transmitted Infections and Sexual Health in Ottawa 2011" shows HIV infections mostly on a downward trend since 2001 and the majority of cases caused, not by Injection Drug Use but by unsafe sex. Of the 70 HIV cases in the last reporting year, a total of 4 cases (7%) are attributed to drug use.

HEP-C

Another City of Ottawa report "Substance Misuse in Ottawa," from March 2013 mentions HCV (HEP-C) however the information is limited on this disease. While it is unfortunate that Ontario tracks HCV

by combining chronic (pre-existing) and acute (new) cases, the report determines that cases of acute HCV are on a downward trend. Another report "Epidemiology Scan A Review of Emerging Health Topics" shows that while HCV was on the rise until 2009, it began a downward trend. The report states that at its peak in 2009, 37 cases of acute hepatitis C were diagnosed.

It is important to understand that an "increase" in acute cases doesn't mean an increase of infection rate, often reported increases can result from other factors - such as more aggressive testing campaigns - so while it appears that HEP-C was on the rise from 2003 to 2009 the infection rate was actually up and

down and is now among the lowest in Ontario, as seen in the University of Toronto report "Epidemiology of Hepatitis C Infection in Ontario 2010".

Overdose

The report "Substance Misuse in Ottawa", states that each year there are approximately 40 drug overdose deaths in Ottawa, due to unintentional poisonings or suicide. These deaths include accidental overdose, prescription medication, intentional suicide and every other form of drug overdose, the overdose death rate of addicts would only be a portion of that total, how many is uncertain but certainly far fewer than 40.

Visible Drug Use

InSite, a supervised injection site (SIS) in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES), has been open for 10 years and that community arguably remains the worst ghetto in North America. Search YouTube for a show titled "The Beat", filmed in the DTES to see the reality of Vancouver's streets. Rampant visible drug dealing and drug use, much of which occurs right next to InSite, is described in Steve Addison's blog "Diary of a Vancouver Beat Cop". InSite hasn't addressed the issue of visible drug use and it's reasonable to believe that Ottawa would be no different.

Ottawa Health

Finally in March the Ottawa Board of Health released their plan to ad-

dress the issues of addiction in Ottawa in their report "Addressing Substance Misuse in Ottawa". In it they outline their stance on Supervised Injection saying "While OPH is monitoring the community discussion on supervised injection sites, it has no plans to open such a site in Ottawa."

So what do we do? Its obvious Ottawa has a drug problem and that an SIS would have very little, if any, impact on cases of HIV, HCV or overdose. And if Vancouver is the model, visible drug use is likely to climb, not fall, if a similar no-prosecution perimeter zone is established.

What we desperately need in Ottawa is treatment, aftercare, housing and prevention. We need to work to get the addicts help, off the streets, out of the shelters, into effective treatment and into housing with proper aftercare. Every street level addict we help reduces crime, drug use and demand, social services costs, making our streets safer. The current waiting list for treatment in Ottawa is extremely long. We can, we MUST, do better.

The only way to insure addicts are out of harm's way is to deal with the addiction itself; end the cycle of addiction and you end all associated harm. We have to stop Band-Aiding these people to death and start offering real services, real help and real hope, for their sake, and ours.

Chris and Lisa Grinham advocate for addicts, their treatment, housing, and care with Safer Ottawa.

WHY LOWERTOWN SHOULD SUPPORT A SUPERVISED INJECTION SITE

Supervised injection sites provide a life line to people who need additional services.



Dr. Mark Tyndall - On September 30, 2011 Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the health and social benefits gained by the people who used the services at Insite - Canada's first supervised injection site - far outweighed the drug prohibition arguments of the Federal government who spent years trying to close it down. By the time the case was heard by the Supreme Court - almost 8 years after it was opened - over 12,000 different individuals had used Insite and the benefits were impressive.

tem. Like for other health issues, people with drug addiction, are entitled to prevention, treatment and care services. Just because drug users are involved in an illegal activity does not mean they forfeit their human rights - including their right to health. Insite saved lives and improved people's health and that was a key part of the Court's decision.

People who regularly used Insite were using less drugs, entering detox and other drug treatment for the first time, accessing primary health care, and reducing their visits to hospital. People liked it, people felt

After the Insite ruling there was hope that similar facilities could be opened in other Canadian cities. Although it was readily acknowledged that the situation in the downtown eastside of Vancouver was more concentrated, more publicized and more horrible than other cities, the opening of places where people could use drugs in a clean room, using new needles, and with the opportunity to connect with people who could support them applied to all cities.

For those of us who are pushing for a site in Ottawa, it should be crystal

to make a difference - namely a supervised injection site - without offering alternatives.

The idea of a supervised injection site may seem counter-intuitive at first. Aren't we trying to discourage people from using drugs? Shouldn't we be offering expanded drug treatment programs? Shouldn't we try and prevent people from injecting drugs in the first place? The answer is yes to all of these questions. However, most have tried to quit, most have tried addiction treatment, and nearly everybody has spent time in jail. It just hasn't worked out for them. People need to understand that a supervised injection site provides a critical life-line to people who inject drugs that opens up access to other services. These are sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, who are among the most marginalized, stigmatized, demonized and poorly understood people in our city. Throwing them into jail is far more radical an approach than opening a supervised injection site.

To those who are opposed or unsure about the merits of opening a supervised injection site in Ottawa - specifically in Lowertown - they should be assured that this will not lead to more drug use, more crime in the community, more drug dealing, or more discarded needles. In over 80 such facilities around the world the effect has been just the opposite. The whole concept of a supervised injection site is to address these very concerns.

Another important question is where a supervised site should be opened. Why Lowertown? Although there are pockets of drug users all over the city, the Lowertown area has by far the largest concentration of drug users, it is where drug related crime and arrests are the highest, where open drug use is the most visible, and where the highest numbers of overdose deaths occur. It is the community that would benefit the most and where the uptake of a supervised injection site would be the highest. There is a real opportunity to do something bold, progressive and meaningful. At the end of the day this is simply the right thing to do.

Dr. Mark Tyndall is head of infectious diseases at The Ottawa Hospital and Professor of Medicine at the University of Ottawa.

TUNNEL STUDY

Nicolas Moyer - A few days after City Council approved a motion by Councillor Fleury to request that the province contribute to the cost of a feasibility study for a tunnel from Highway 417 to the Macdonald-Cartier Bridge, Ontario Transportation Minister Glen Murray offered \$375,000 to support that very study.

This is the first option for getting trucks off King-Edward to be considered since the concept of a new bridge to the East was shut down. While the idea of a tunnel under Lowertown and Sandy Hill is decades old, it has systematically been dismissed over the years for being too expensive. But with the price tag of the now dismissed Kettle Island Bridge proposal ranging over \$1.1 billion with the cost of necessary expropriations, the tunnel option may in fact now become comparatively cost-effective.

With the rest of the cost covered by the City of Ottawa, the \$750,000 study is expected to take between 12-15 months to be completed.

With over 2,500 trucks travelling between the MacDonald-Cartier Bridge and the 417 on a typical weekday, and that number expected to rise 1-2% each year, a lasting solution to get the trucks out of our downtown core is beyond overdue. Along with local residents, the Echo will follow the activities and outcomes of this tunnel study very closely.



Proponents of a supervised injection site in Ottawa created a mock injection site for the public at 216 Murray St last September. Photo: Pat McGrath, Ottawa Citizen.

supported, and people felt safe - maybe for the first time in their lives. During the same time period there were dramatic decreases in both HIV infections and fatal overdoses, at least some of which could be attributed to Insite. Further, there was no increase in crime, far less public injecting, and fewer discarded needles on the streets. The Police Chief, the Mayor, the Provincial government, and local businesses came out publicly to support Insite. How could they not?

Perhaps even more importantly, the Court made it clear that drug addiction and the devastating health and social consequences could not be fixed by the criminal justice sys-

clear that we are ultimately working towards exactly the same thing as those who would oppose it. The question should not be why we need a supervised injection site in Ottawa but rather, how can we reduce the suffering of people who use drugs? How can we reduce HIV and Hepatitis C infections? How can we reduce open drug use in our streets? How can we reduce drug related crime and violence? How can we reduce overdose deaths? And ultimately, how can we help people get off drugs? We require a constructive, pragmatic, health-based approach to addiction, mental illness and poverty. It is unacceptable to JUST SAY NO to an intervention that is proven

Downtown truck tunnel study area

- Potential tunnel entrance
- Possible tunnel routes
- Surface route



DENNIS LEUNG/OTTAWA CITIZEN

MELLOS

Continued from page 1

lowed”, says Leisa, “We come here to talk, not to text.”

Leisa remembers her first shift at Mellos ten years ago. She notes that, through all the years, many customers have been extremely devoted, such as an elderly couple she refers to as “Mom and Pop” who have been coming to Mellos for 50 years. But with its busy downtown location, Mellos has to contend with the occasional rogue client. Leisa laughed as she recalled a rough customer who, after being reminded that he would not be served because of his previous bad behaviour, proceeded to seize a tray of muffins off the counter and begin hurling the muffins at customers around the restaurant.

By day, Mellos continues to be a purveyor of home-cooked food away from home, the classic eggs and bacon, Club sandwiches, hamburger steak and even liver and onions. Starting at the impressive hour of 5:30 am, Mellos begins dishing out breakfasts to a steady churn of City of Ottawa workers, police officers and office workers.

But since Mellos was sold to new owners in 2012 it has added a second personality as an evening dining experience of fusion cuisine. At that time, Leisa seized the opportunity to join Montreal-based entrepreneur Martin Fremeth in forging a new

life for Mellos. Leisa invited chef Michael Frank to explore his vision for an evening dining experience that would be fresh both for Mellos and for Ottawa. Michael, after working as Chef de Cuisine at the Hotel le Germain and, later, chef at Barrio Lounge in the Leslieville area of



Mellos' iconic sign was recently refurbished.
Photo: Peter Gould

Toronto, had followed his girlfriend to Ottawa. Since joining Mellos, Michael has clearly brought a unique vision to the evening dining experience that combines affordability with adventurous gourmet cuisine.

By night, the lights are low at Mellos and the customers seem more settled in their booths in quiet conversation. It's a different concept and a different ambience—but both Leisa and Michael insist that they want to keep the “diner experience”. Michael has strived to keep prices reasonable, because he wants dining at Mellos to be a “once a week”, not a “once a month”, experience. It is an eclectic and international menu, ranging from “roast pork Cubano”, made famous in Tampa, Florida, to chicken wings fried in batter like you would find in a Chinese restaurant. Michael is not afraid to experiment, introducing a highly innovative menu and live music on some evenings.

Leisa and Michael say they seek to introduce something new and exciting to the neighbourhood while preserving something special. The old sign at Mellos was restored recently, and workers exposed a brick wall inside and built a new counter at the front of the restaurant—but the renovations are over. Apparently, the booths, vintage ceiling lamps and linoleum floor are here to stay – as are the regulars!

Mellos
290 Dalhousie Street
(613) 241-1909
Open daily
5:30 am to 1:30 pm
and 6 to 11 pm

ZUNDER

Continued from page 3

sea Square and making racing sleds to slide down the hills in Macdonald Gardens.

Lowertown in the 1930s consisted of families from diverse cultural backgrounds – Irish Catholic, French Canadians, Anglican and Jewish. Snowball fights were common in the area, as the different groups of children walked to and from their respective schools. And as Sam recalled, the Jewish boys were taunted daily on their way to do their Hebrew studies. As the oldest child in the family, he also recalled bringing the family laundry to the cloistered convent on St Patrick Street, where the nuns and residents did the washing for the community.

In his early years, his parents had a fruit business in Byward Market. With the onset of the Depression and hard economic times, the industrious Zunder family operated a fruit store, a corner store and later, switched to hauling fruit from farms to Montreal and Toronto. Growing up, Sam worked at the family store. In the 1960s, he purchased the building at the corner of Byward and George Streets that became Zunder's Fruitland. Retired in 1994, Sam Zunder currently resides with Sandra, his wife of over 60 years, on Porter Island near the site of so many of his childhood memories.

ENERGY EAST PIPELINE

Community welcomes public consultation on proposed TransCanada pipeline.

Liz Bernstein - Some Lowertown residents joined hundreds of Ottawans and thousands from across the country to participate in a national #DefendOurClimate day of action. Participants built a wall of sand bags to stop a symbolic oil spill outside the Prime Minister's Office on November 16.

The Ottawa event, one of over 130 held across the country, highlighted

opposition to TransCanada's proposed Energy East pipeline. This project would send 1.1 million barrels of oil per day through Ottawa, including across the Rideau River, on the way to ports in Quebec and New Brunswick.

The event was organized by Ecology Ottawa, the Council of Canadians, 350.org Ottawa, and the Ottawa Greenpeace chapter, and included

Ottawans from all walks of life. Many Lowertown residents also welcomed the recent decision by the Ontario government to conduct a public consultation on the proposed Energy East pipeline.

Liz Bernstein is a Co-Vice-President of the LCA and a member of the Ecology Ottawa Steering Committee.



Gayle Taylor and daughter Rebecca help build a symbolic sandbag wall in front of the Prime Minister's office. Photo: Ben Powless

CLARENCE

Continued from page 3

My intuition tells me the narrative of this residence and its occupants has still more to yield. The building stands stoically as a reminder of urban renewal; many of the sur-

rounding buildings to the north and west have been demolished. How this building managed to escape the fate of so many others is yet another mystery; history that was once lost and remains to be found.

Thomas Sloss was a 2013 Canada Summer Jobs student with the LCA.

Its unique architecture includes a front-sloping gable roof that interrupts the eaves line.



Madeleine Meilleur
MPP/députée
Ottawa-Vanier

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COMPLETE STREETS POLICY HOLDS OUT PROMISE FOR SAFER STREETS IN OTTAWA

City's Transportation Master Plan and Pedestrian and Cycling Plans are big step forward compared to previous plans.

Liz Bernstein - On November 26 Council approved five key master plans that will guide the City's future land development and transportation system: the Building A Liveable Ottawa initiative. LCA members participated fully in this process throughout the year and joined other community associations and organizations in advocating for inclusion of a Complete Streets policy, where streets are designed with all ages, users and abilities in mind.

In addition to conducting an audit and publishing a formal report on Active Transportation which recommended the City adopt a Complete Streets policy, members sent letters to the Mayor and Councillors, gath-

ered signatures for a petition, and sent detailed comments on the draft Transportation Master Plan and Official Plan.

Lowertown residents care deeply about walking, cycling, transit safety and accessibility, and worked hard to contribute their vision not only for Lowertown, but for the City of Ottawa. The LCA was one of 34 community associations which presented at the Transportation Committee Meeting reviewing the plans on November 15. Most community delegations highlighted the importance of increased investment in transit, cycling and pedestrian infrastructure and sustainable transportation, rather than new roads and

road widenings, and demonstrated a coherence of message across communities.

While there was near unanimity in calling for a Complete Streets policy, much of the conversation by Councillors focused on various road widenings. Councillor Fleury also proposed a number of motions designed to improve pedestrian and cycling infrastructure in his ward, including one for winter maintenance of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, and was one of the more vocal councillors supporting the Complete Streets Policy and related investments.

The Transportation Master Plan and the Pedestrian and Cycling

Plans, are a big step forward compared to the previous plans. If vigorously implemented, a Complete Streets Policy will encourage active transportation, promote healthy lifestyles, improve environmental quality and make our streets safer for pedestrians and cyclists in Ottawa's Transportation Master Plan. Now it's up to residents to ensure the City implements, and funds, the policy so that it does make a difference for pedestrians, cyclists and wheelchair users in Lowertown and Ottawa.

Liz Bernstein is a Co-Vice-President of the LCA and a member of the Ecology Ottawa Steering Committee.

ANOTHER LCA HERITAGE FIRST

Summer students make important contributions to LCA Heritage Committee's Built Heritage and Oral History projects.

Liz McKenzie - With funding from the federal program, Canada Summer Jobs 2013, the LCA Heritage Committee hired two summer students, Tom Sloss and Sophia Ross, for eight weeks. This is the first student grant that the LCA has received, so the amount of paperwork, administration, and supervision was a surprise. However, systems are now well set up, and the Heritage Committee will apply for two more students in 2014.

Sophia and Tom made a significant contribution to Lowertown's oral history and built heritage projects. The Lowertown Good Neighbours Community House provided office space and Heritage Committee members contributed valuable time and knowledge. Overall, the project left all participants feeling good about the experience gained from working together.

In August, the students presented posters and other material in conjunction with a Macdonald Gardens heritage walk and reception. This collaborative event of the LCA Heritage Committee and the Lowertown East Residents Committee marked an initial contribution to the Macdonald Gardens 100th celebration planned for 2014.

Tom Sloss, a third year student at Carleton University, worked on the Built Heritage component of our summer program, concentrating on Clarence Street East. He created a poster

presentation focusing on Ottawa's famous hockey legend, King Clancy, who lived at 499 Clarence Street East.

Using city directories, he researched past residents; using historical fire insurance maps, he researched building evolution; using architectural references, he analysed building elements; and through Google news archive, he developed profiles of some early residents. Tom also produced a brochure entitled *Using Fire Insurance Maps as a Research Tool* and an article for *The Echo*.

Sophia Ross, second year student at St. Thomas University, N.B., worked on the Oral History component of our summer program. The above poster presentation provided extracts from some of her conversations with Lowertown residents.

After Sophia completed her interviews, she documented the stories about family and community life in two formats: short vignettes and complete transcriptions. Where possible, she collected photographs from interviewees to enhance their histories. Her final product was a brochure entitled *A Basic Guide to Oral History* and an article for *The Echo*.

Liz McKenzie is a member of the LCA Heritage Committee.



LCA Summer Student, Tom Sloss with his research on Lowertown resident and famous hockey legend, King Clancy. Photo: Liz McKenzie



LCA Summer Student, Sophia Ross with extracts from her interviews documenting Lowertown's rich oral history. Photo: Liz McKenzie

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UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

National Gallery of Canada
<http://www.gallery.ca>

Free Admission
 Thursdays 5-8 PM

Bytown Museum
<http://www.bytownmuseum.com>

Free Admission
 First Sunday of Every Month
 Closed Mondays and Dec 23-Jan 1.
 Winter Hours:
 Tues-Sun 11 AM- 4 PM.

Christmas Craft-ernoon
 Create your very own Victorian Christmas card and decoration for your tree and ours...and so much more!
 Dec 7-8: All day

A Taste of Mexico: Exclusive Mezcal Tasting
 Dec 12 and 14: 6 PM
 Tickets \$40 - Limited Seating
 Friday the 13th Museum Fundraiser and Public Investigation
 Whether you are a skeptic or a true be-

liever, let HOPS- Haunted Ottawa Paranormal Society be your guide...with expert guidance, you will gain knowledge of the procedures used, collect data and investigate various locations throughout Ottawa's oldest stone building using equipment provided.
 Dec 13: 7-11 PM.
 Tickets \$25 per person. Must be 13 years or older.

Festive Victorian Traditions
 Dec 14-15: All day

Festive Victorian Crafts
 Dec 21-22: All day

"Nightmare Before Xmas"
 Explore the darker side of the festive season. Hear about strange and frightening holiday traditions from around the world and gather in close as we share creepy Christmas-themed ghost stories.
 Sat, Dec 21: For more tour information, ticket prices and departure locations please visit <http://www.hauntedwalk.com/ottawatours.php>.

"Nightmare After Xmas | Twas a Cold and Frosty Night"
 Guides will share some of the scariest christmasy themed ghost stories from across Canada.
 Dec 27-28, 2013: For more tour information, ticket prices and departure locations please visit <http://www.hauntedwalk.com/ottawatours.php>.

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

Free Wagon Rides and Christmas Carollers Every Weekend in December
 Sign up on corner of William and York Streets
 Nov 30-Dec 22: 12-4 PM.

Lowertown Community Resource Centre
<http://www.crcbv.ca/>
 L'Patro d'Ottawa
 10 Patro St
 613-789-3930

Ottawa Public Library: Rideau Street Branch
 377 Rideau St
 613-241-6954

Pen and Paper Writers' Workshop
 Dec 10: 6-8 PM

Youth Zone Job Workshop
 Feb 4: 4:30-6 PM

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

Heritage Ottawa
www.heritageottawa.org
 613-230-8841

Free Public Lecture: "Lost Ottawa" & the Built Environment: The City, its Citizens, and the Future of the Past
 Dec 12: 7 PM
 Location: Dominion Chalmers United Church, 355 Cooper Street
 Information: 613.230-8841 or <http://www.heritageottawa.org/>

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 x7300

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 x23653

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

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

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

We need photographers and artists for lots of fun heritage projects! The list goes on. We need help with fundraising by reaching out to local businesses and applying for government grants. We have simpler tasks that need more people, like delivering the Echo! There are many options and we are happy to welcome ideas you would like to bring to us and to lead! Think about it. At the very least, join our email distribution list and come to a monthly meeting or a local event from time to time. It's simple!

Contact us at info@lowertown-basseville.ca

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 I live here

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