

Photo Tony Clunis



Not all eyes were smiling.... Celebrations turned threatening and notorious on St. Patrick's day in Sandy Hill. This photo was taken at the corner of Somerset and Chapel. Drivers could not pass; there was anxiety about students falling off roofs, broken glass,

Photo Claire MacDonald



Another sort of GG! Wilbrod Ave. resident Diana Nemiroff has been honoured this spring with a Governor General's Award for Visual and Media Arts in the category of outstanding contribution to contemporary visual and/or media arts. See Betsy Mann's article about Diana's career, on page 13.

(Not) going our way Detour calendar for 2012 to 2015

Larry Newman

The denizens of Sandy Hill will see some interesting (as in, "may you live in interesting times") traffic experiences in the near term. This is the short list of construction projects that will directly affect neighbourhood traffic.

The long awaited **Rideau Renewal Plan** construction is scheduled to start in the second half of May. Rideau Street from Dalhousie to the Cummings Bridge will be excavated and pipes replaced and upgraded, including a separation of sanitary and storm sewers – and the remaining power lines on the south side of Rideau will be buried. The renewal is expected to handle water, gas, and effluent services for existing and new buildings along that stretch of the street. Richcraft, for example, is scheduled to build at the corner of Charlotte, Claridge at the northeast intersection with Chapel, and other developers are waiting for the promised infrastructure upgrade.

This summer's construction will be separated into two phases (Dalhousie to King Edward in May, followed by King Edward to Chapel in July) and carry over into next year. During construction, the City expects to keep one lane of Rideau open in each direction, however when crews are working on the King Edward to Chapel stretch, OC Transpo buses are to be routed around the construction on Rideau. Work as far east as Chapel is planned to be completed by the end of 2012.

Planning for the **Ottawa Light Rail Transit (OLRT)** project is ongoing and the nearest station to northern Sandy Hill has recently been moved from Confedera-

tion Square to east of the Rideau Centre, near William Street. During construction, there will be a hole about 20 meters deep on Rideau at the station site. Bus routes will surely be challenged during this time. Lucky for us, this is planned to start in 2013, avoiding a conflict with the Rideau Street Renewal, but it's really too early to know exactly when.

Have you heard of the project called **Queensway Expansion East**? This project will add one lane in each direction to the Queensway, from Nicholas to the split after St. Laurent. So you won't be able to avoid Rideau Street construction by driving south because the Lees Avenue eastbound on-ramp to the Queensway will be closed for three years, from Fall 2012 to 2015. In addition, for a 3-month period, the Lees Avenue overpass at the south end of King Edward will be under construction and also closed. The other Queensway overpasses (Vanier Parkway, St. Laurent) will, however, be replaced in an overnight process as happened not long ago at Carling Ave.

Two alternative routes from Sandy Hill to the eastbound Queensway are either Vanier Parkway or Nicholas Street. Of course, taking the Vanier Parkway will require driving along Rideau Street from Charlotte to Cummings Bridge— and possibly duking it out with construction equipment renewing Rideau Street.

Now for LRT construction on Waller & Nicholas – doesn't the OLRT site map show the route following Waller St to a Campus station alongside Nicholas? There is a good chance that this construction will involve digging the tunnel from above ground. We will have a better idea this fall when the construction firms that

Detours ahead — continued on page 6

Spring cleaning tornado to sweep through Sandy Hill

Claire MacDonald

We are all wired to clean homes, closets and gardens this time of year, right? Why stop there... let's get this neighbourhood really ready for outdoor living and summer visitors. The City's Cleaning the Capital program kicks in anti-graffiti kits and other supplies; the Scouts and Action Sandy Hill are getting teams together (everyone welcome) for an energetic day in the parks. And YOU are invited to spend a few extra minutes outdoors this week and next, cleaning up your yard, entry, streetfront, and parking area.

Student move-out days

The City of Ottawa will conduct special patrols of the streets relating to student move-out dates, between 25 April and 2 May, 2012. Fines are to be issued to tenants for early garbage at the curb and owners will be charged with the removal of the garbage should this prove necessary. Don't hesitate to call 311 to report garbage or graffiti issues in the neighbourhood. The city relies on these reports to take action.

Electronics Recycling Day

Thanks to the City and U of O's sustainability department, we are going to have the convenience of a one-day-only e-waste collection site from 9-4 p.m. on Saturday May 5, at the Sandy Hill arena parking lot off Mann.

Acceptable items

- Computer peripherals, including modems
- Floor standing printing devices including printers, photocopiers, multi-function devices
- Scanners, typewriters
- Telephones and answering machines
- Cellular phones and pagers
- PDAs
- Audio and video players and recorders (e.g. MP3, cassette, digital)
- Cameras (web, digital, analog)
- Equalizers/(pre)amplifiers
- Radios
- Receivers
- Speakers
- Turntables
- Video players/projectors, digital frames
- Video recorders
- Personal handheld computers
- Desktop computers
- Portable computers
- Computer peripherals (keyboards, mice, hard drives, optical drives - CD, Blue-Ray, DVD, HD DVD)
- Monitors
- Televisions
- Desktop printing devices including desktop copiers and multi-function devices

Not acceptable items

- Air conditioners
- Refrigerators
- Washers / Dryers
- Microwaves

What does it cost?

It is free

Is this service open to the general public and private companies?

Yes - provided materials are acceptable

What happens to the items that are dropped-off?

All items will be broken down to their component resources. These resources will be re-used. The recycling will take place at the CFER Outaouais facility in Gatineau. The recycling will not be done overseas and all items will be recycled in the most environmental way possible. It is recommended that you delete all personal information from any device being recycled.

Goal: 200,000 pairs of shoes

April is SOLES 4 SOULS Month in Ottawa. Mayor Watson invites us to clean our closets and put our gently worn shoes into a collection box at City Hall on Lisgar Street. They will be delivered to So-

les4Souls Canada which provides them to children and adults in our community and around the world who may not be able to afford a new pair. For a list of other drop-off locations, visit soles4soulsCanada.com.

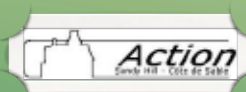


- Meet in the parking lot, Strathcona Park / Rendez-vous au stationnement du parc Strathcona
- Bring work gloves (we'll have extra) / Apportez des gants de travail (on en aura à prêter)
- Garbage bags provided / Les sacs à déchets seront fournis
- High school students - earn volunteer hours! / Heures de bénévolat pour les élèves du secondaire!

SPRING CLEAN-UP / NETTOYAGE DU PRINTEMPS

Sandy Hill Parks and Streets / Parcs et rues de la Côte-de-Sable
Rain or shine! Beau temps, mauvais temps!

SATURDAY/SAMEDI MAY 5 MAI 2012 1PM-4PM / 13H-16H



Adopt-a-Park / Adoptez un parc
Organized by / Organisé par: 150th Sandy Hill
Scouts and Action Sandy Hill (ASH) /
Action Côte-de-Sable (ACS)
Information: info@ash-acsc.ca

IMAGE

Founded in 1972 under the
direction of Diane Wood

22, av. Russell Ave.
Ottawa K1N 7W8

Fondé en 1972 sous la
direction de Diane Wood

IMAGE, a non-profit community newspaper, is supported by its advertisers. Opinions expressed are those of contributors and advertisers, and do not necessarily represent those of the volunteer editorial staff.

In 2012, IMAGE is published in **February, April, June, October and December**. 7,500 copies are printed and distributed free of charge to all residents of Sandy Hill. Free issues can also be picked up at the community centre, library and various commercial locations.

IMAGE welcomes articles, letters, photographs, notices and other material of interest to its readers in the Sandy Hill community. Name and telephone number of contributor must be included.

If you'd like to write articles, draw cartoons or other illustrations for stories, or take photographs on assignment, please call and leave your name and number at 613-237-8889. No age restrictions.

IMAGE reserves the right to edit in whole or in part all such contributions.
Tel: 613-237-8889

E-mail : image22@rogers.com

Website: imagesandyhill.org

Editor:

Jane Waterston

Rédactrice de langue française :

Denyse Mulvihill

Advertising: Peter Rinfret, Jane Waterston

Research/admin/translation:

Ralph Blaine, François Bregha, Paula Kelsall, Claire MacDonald, Betsy Mann, Jan Meldrum, Jane McNamara, Dodi Newman, Larry Newman, Catherine Pacella, Judy Rinfret, Peter Rinfret, John Verbaas

Production: Jane Waterston

Photographers: Bill Blackstone, Claire MacDonald, Iain MacDonald

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Reserve advertising space or let us know you have a letter, photo and/or article by

June 4, 2012

(target delivery June 18)

IMAGE is written, published and delivered thanks to the efforts of dedicated and talented volunteers and the support of our advertisers. Please support local businesses, especially those who advertise in and display IMAGE.

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If you live in Sandy Hill, IMAGE is delivered free to your door. Please call 613-237-8889 if you are aware of anyone or any business in our neighbourhood who is not receiving their newspaper.

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En 2012, IMAGE sera publié en **février, avril, juin, octobre et décembre**. Son tirage est de 7 500 exemplaires. Il est distribué gratuitement partout dans la Côte-de-Sable. On peut également l'obtenir au centre communautaire, à la bibliothèque et dans plusieurs commerces du quartier.

Tous les articles, lettres, illustrations, photos et autre documentation pouvant intéresser les lecteurs de la Côte-de-Sable sont les bienvenus. Leurs auteurs doivent indiquer leur nom et leur numéro de téléphone.

Les personnes intéressées à collaborer à IMAGE sont invitées à téléphoner au 613-241-1059 ou au 613-237-8889, en indiquant leur nom et leur numéro de téléphone. Nous apprécions la contribution de tous, quelque soit leur âge.

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Courriel : image22@rogers.com

Site web : imagesandyhill.org

Date de tombée

Publicité, articles, photos et autres soumissions

le 4 juin 2012

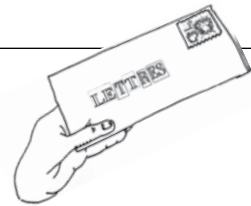
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Our readers write ...



Courrier des lecteurs

Identity crisis in Sandy Hill

I enjoy living downtown and am pleased that my two children are spending their teens growing up in a neighbourhood that is diverse, eclectic and full of energy. However, to live here means constant battles with homeowners and developers.

Does living in an urban setting mean that I have to accept garbage overflowing on my street, constant noise and parties well past 1 am, and the disrespect of many local residents towards the community?

It is the lack of respect and appreciation that astounds me. I continue to see hideous redevelopment projects popping up. It would be a costly proposition today, but

with a sound plan, in 30 years Sandy Hill could once again regain its rightful place in Ottawa.

The man who built his own house at 464 Besserer in 1873, David Ewart, was the Chief Dominion Architect of Canada and, during his tenure, was responsible for the construction of over 300 federal buildings from Victoria to St. John's. His architecture is what anyone in the world sees when they think of Canada. He was a proud resident of Sandy Hill until his passing. I wonder what he would say to our city planners about the current state of affairs in the Sandy Hill community.

Nathalie Vallières
Nelson St.

Fracture Hill

Karen Bays tumbled on a slippery stretch of Nelson last February, hit her head, snapped her wrist, and is still recuperating. This has given her time to think about the conditions of her fall and prepare these notes for Mayor Jim Watson and staff.

The City has a serious problem with its winter sidewalks. This is not new and has been happening winter after winter. Many claim the freeze thaw cycle is the source of the problem but if that is true, why are the streets always so clean? I do not think sidewalks have the same priority as streets in clearing and cleaning efforts and there are serious problems with the manner in which the sidewalks are maintained.

Find another grit. The City uses tiny black grey bits that sit on the ice and warm up when the sun hits them. This sinks the warm grit and water forms around it into millions of tiny pools of melted ice thus exacerbating the problem. We end up creating an even more slippery surface when the temperature drops and those tiny pools freeze.

In the early stages of winter, there should be a **marketing campaign** urging residents to clear their own City sidewalks. I know some municipalities require residents to shovel their sidewalks but with our tax rate, that will not go over well. Also, we do not have enough by-law officers to attend to garbage and noise problems as it is, so what is the point of adding more work for them. It takes us three minutes to clear the City sidewalk in front of our house and we do so because we want people to have a safe place to walk. It has been obvious for years that City is not going to keep all of our sidewalks clean. One of the 20/20 vision goals was to create a responsive and caring city – let's care about the safety and health of others and all pitch in.

Constantly remind the sidewalk maintenance staff how important their

job is and failure to do their job well causes injury and harm to others. I have had several encounters with staff who skip areas, push ice and snow from icy spots to clean sidewalk areas and leave it, who travel faster while clearing the sidewalks than some cars do on the street, who drive up and down the street so they won't have to change the angle of their blade instead of redoing a sidewalk from the other way with the same gas and energy. Maybe awards could be given to crews with the cleanest sidewalks. Their job is extremely important and I sense their morale and pride in their work is low.

Have the roads and sidewalk crews work together. They seem to spend a lot of time shovelling snow back and forth. We end up with piles along the curbs that act like dams and hold melting water on the sidewalks to form mini ice rinks. Somehow, melted sidewalk water needs to get to the gutters like the melted water on the street does. One does not have to be a civil engineer to understand that the way the streets are ploughed makes the sidewalks worse.

Start counting. Ask hospitals, physicians, and citizens to report sidewalk injuries. Use the information to redirect resources, ask the province for more funding with the payoff being savings in health care dollars, and involve public health. Once public health and community health centres had an effective falls prevention campaign. Maybe it is time to resurrect components of that program.

These are just a few ideas to help make winter safer in Ottawa. Icy sidewalks do not have to be the reality and should not be accepted. We need a walkable community in every part of our city that is safe for those who want and need to walk. Walking should be an easy choice - not one where people put their health and safety in jeopardy. Sidewalks connect us all to daily living and build communities. They cannot be functional only part of the year.

Karen Bays
Sweetland Ave.

It's time to call for quiet

Action Sandy Hill is strongly in favour of amending the City's noise bylaw so it becomes an effective and useful tool to restore peace in the neighbourhood. Just this week we read in the *Citizen* that 4,000 of 10,000 calls about noise going in to the City come from Sandy Hill. Noise is a widespread concern in this neighbourhood.

Living cheek to jowl, we all need to respect our neighbours and their right to sleep and work in a reasonable environment. At present you must identify the person making the noise by name, which is a very difficult thing to do for most neighbours when it comes to noise disturbances. So although we have a noise bylaw, enforcement is another matter. The bylaw as it currently stands promotes expectations that cannot be met.

A proposed change to the bylaw would hold a leaseholder or tenant responsible at a particular address. It would allow

bylaw personnel or police to attend to noise at the time of or even after an event takes place. In the latter case, a witness statement might be used to identify the problem. The hope is that action will deter future excesses. In addition, a visit to a problematic address and a fine has the potential to contain the noise in a timely manner.

Because it has been difficult to enforce the bylaw, some have a sense they are not accountable for their noise, which translates into other difficult if not dangerous behaviours.

Councillor Fleury is supportive of the change and hopes an amendment may be in place by the fall. ASH wants to make sure we cover our bases and support the change. We urge you to make your voice heard. There is an evening meeting in City Hall Council Chambers on 24 April from 6:30 – 8:30 pm, where you can make your views known.

Action Sandy Hill
Board of Directors

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City Councillor for Rideau-Vanier

Mathieu Fleury

DEAR NEIGHBOUR...

Sandy Hill is one of Ottawa's most historical and easily recognized downtown neighbourhoods. A demographic diversity including young families, professionals, seniors, and students and many others is part of what makes Sandy Hill so unique. In fact, I am proud to say that our community is welcoming to all who show openness, respect, and support.

As the warm season begins to take effect in the city, it also has people heading outside to enjoy the sun on their front lawn, porches and in their backyards. It is understandable that families and friends will be gathering to take advantage of the warm weather and to enjoy outdoor activities, and it is also expected that this will happen with neighbourly respect and responsibility.

That being said, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the unfortunate and unacceptable behaviour surrounding St. Patrick's Day celebrations which demonstrated a lack of respect and responsibility within our neighbourhood.

On March 23rd, shortly after the incidents of the St. Patrick's Day weekend, a meeting was organized that brought together representatives from the Ottawa Police, By-Law Services, as well as Action Sandy Hill, your local community association. This meeting gave us the opportunity to gather as much information as possible from all parties surrounding the lead-up, assessment and resolution to the unfortunate events.

From this point of departure, we were able to review the day and examine the ways that all parties involved could better respond in future. At the outset, representatives from the Ottawa Police and By-Law

Services recognized that the warm weather encouraged the partygoers to move their celebrations outdoors and to begin their festivities earlier than anticipated by authorities. It was also agreed that similar celebrations (Canada Day, Welcome Week 101, etc.) would be more effectively managed by the deployment of additional resources across the area. By coordinating City of Ottawa services more effectively and ensuring that their operations begin earlier in the day, we are hopeful that our City services will more effectively manage celebrations before they escalate to unmanageable levels.

In order for our City services to coordinate their efforts and respond promptly, it is imperative that everyone do their part, including young adults (students). We are asking all residents to report all non-emergency incidents to our City services line by dialing 311 or visiting www.serviceottawa.ca.

My team and I take these issues very seriously. We are counting on your reports to prevent such events from escalating again. In the meantime, we are developing an action plan together with the help of the various stakeholders in order to enable us to respond better in the future.

We encourage residents to celebrate during holidays, providing only that they do so in a manner respectful of their environment, their neighbours and the community.

Be assured that members of Action Sandy Hill, my office, and the media have given and will continue to give these unacceptable events significant attention.

For questions, inquiries or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact our office. We are here for you.

Regards, Mathieu Fleury,
City Councillor for Rideau-Vanier

NewsBites

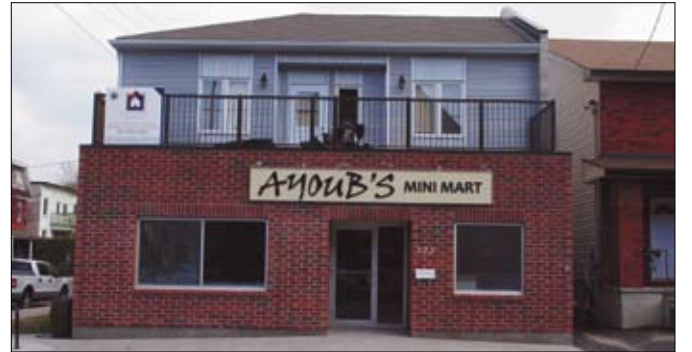
Ayoub's rising

On Easter Sunday, Nouha Chahine provided an update on the renovations to the family-run corner store Ayoub's at the corner of Somerset East and Blackburn Avenue.

Over piping hot Lebanese coffee and sinfully delicious homemade treats, she recalled that it was 37 years ago that Ayoub's first opened in Sandy Hill. She speaks very fondly of our neighbourhood and its friendly residents.

Sadly, on April 15, 2009, many of us watched as Ayoub's was consumed by an accidental fire. After 3 years of struggling with insurance companies, contractors, rules and regulations, Ayoub's is ready to reopen...almost!

Nouha would not commit to a firm date, since the final touches are still to be made, but she hopes that within a few weeks Ay-



oub's will open its doors to us, her eagerly waiting Sandy Hill neighbours.

Although we can expect many of the same staples offered as before, the renovated Ayoub's will have a new modern look. It will also have a larger kitchen where Nouha plans to cook and bake fresh, organic, homemade food, including hot daily specials and freshly baked treats.

A firm opening date is to be announced very soon. There was even talk of an opening party. Stay tuned. — Christine Aubry

Say goodbye to poles on Rideau

Late last year, the cost of burying hydro wires on the south side of Rideau St. was estimated at \$1.5 million and considered prohibitive. A further study by Ottawa Hydro lowered the price by about half.

Then it was learned that lane widening from Chapel to Charlotte is needed to bet-



Photo Bill Blackstone

ter accommodate buses and other street traffic so south-side hydro poles must be relocated during the upcoming renewal project. In some places the poles could not, however, be moved closer to the buildings because of provincial hydro regulations, so funding was found, after all, to bury the wires from Chapel to Charlotte.

The project's working group also recommended eliminating the existing centre turn lane from King Edward through to Chapel to allow wider sidewalks for pedestrians. The City traffic department agreed to this change except for the turn at Nelson Street, which they consider necessary to keep traffic from backing up and blocking the King Edward intersection during rush hour. Consequently, the requirement for increased roadway width again called for a pole move, and abiding by provincial regulations means the wires will need to be buried.

After much planning, analysis, and discussion, the current plan has no overhead wires remaining on any stretch of Rideau Street. It has been a long and somewhat convoluted trip but it looks like Rideau Street will finally join the 21st century.

— Larry Newman

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domicile

And the Good Neighbours awards go to...

Marcia George

Sandy Hill's Good Neighbours Committee met on March 19 to decide who should receive an award in the new Community Awards program. The committee had received four nominations and members voted to present prizes in two of three award categories.

Best-kept garden on an off-campus student rental property

Christine Maika and Melissa Gavin have earned this award. Together with their roommates, these University of Ottawa graduate students took it upon themselves in June 2011 to completely re-landscape the front garden of their rental property, previously an unkempt eyesore of overgrown weeds. The residents removed the old growth and planted a lovely garden in the front. What is more, their clean-up seems to have influenced the landlord next door, who started to beautify his own front garden. Throughout the summer, Christine and Melissa continued to maintain the garden, an initiative noticed and appreciated by neighbours.

Best all-around student award

Charlotte Pashley was the successful candidate in this category. Charlotte, graduating this year, is in the Honours Bachelor of Arts program with a major in psychology and minor in music. She has become an active member of the Sandy Hill community, whose company has been enjoyed by young and old. She volunteers her time as an assistant activities coordinator at Rideau Place on the River, where you will find her playing a mean game of Scrabble with residents every Tuesday night. She has also been a much-loved supply teacher at Bettye Hyde Co-operative Nursery School and a trusted babysitter for many Sandy Hill families. In addition, Charlotte has been active in University of Ottawa activities, including intramural hockey and the university choir.

Special recognition goes to the runner-up for this award, Nic Weymouth, who has received a pair of tickets donated by Odyssey Theatre. We received a strong nomination for Nic, who demonstrated great leadership and dedicated a number of hours to the outdoor skating rink at the Sandy Hill Community Centre this winter.

The committee decided not to present an award this year in the category of overall best off-campus student rental property. It was gratifying for committee members to learn about the hard work and dedication that many University of Ottawa students have invested in the neighbourhood community.

The Committee congratulates Christine, Melissa, Charlotte and Nic and thanks those who put forward nominations for 2012. We look forward to receiving new nominations by March 1, 2013.



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References available.



Public Open House

Rideau Street Renewal (Dalhousie St. to Rideau River) Integrated Sewer, Watermain and Road Rehabilitation

The City of Ottawa invites you to attend an open house to discuss the renewal of Rideau Street

Thursday, 26 April 2012, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Le Patro Community Centre, 40 Cobourg Street, Ottawa

For more information, please visit the Public Meetings and Notices section on ottawa.ca or contact

Randy Dempsey, Senior Engineer, Infrastructure Projects
Infrastructure Services and Community Sustainability

City of Ottawa,
100 Constellation Crescent, 6th Floor
Ottawa, ON K2G 6J8
E-mail: Randy.Dempsey@ottawa.ca
Tel.: 613-580-2424 ext. 14102
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**Annual General
Meeting, 2012**

**Our Community Association
Notre association communautaire**

**Assemblée Générale
Annuelle 2012**

**ACTION
SANDY HILL**

WHEN

May 17, 2012 • Doors open 6:30 p.m. • Le jeudi, 17 mai à 18h30

QUAND

WHERE

Sandy Hill Community Centre, 250 Somerset St. E.
Centre communautaire, 250, rue Somerset est

où

WHAT

Election of Action Sandy Hill Directors.
Meet your City Councillor
Police
Bylaw Enforcement Services.
Volunteer of the Year Award.
Élections au Conseil d'administration Action Côte-de-Sable
Venez rencontrer votre conseiller municipal
Les porte paroles de la police
Des règlements municipaux
Prix pour le bénévole de l'année.

QUOI FAIRE

UPDATES

What we did last year. What's coming up.
Nos activités récentes. Nos plans pour l'année à venir.

NOUVELLES

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**ACTION
CÔTE-DE-SABLE**



Réunion portes ouvertes

Renouvellement de la rue Rideau (de la rue Dalhousie à la rivière Rideau)

Projet intégré de remplacement des égouts et de la conduite d'eau principale et de réfection de la chaussée

La Ville d'Ottawa vous invite à une réunion portes ouvertes au cours de laquelle il sera question de la rénovation de la rue Rideau. Cette réunion aura lieu

le jeudi 26 avril 2012, de 18 h à 20 h 30

au Centre communautaire Le Patro, 40, rue Cobourg, Ottawa.

Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter la section Réunions publiques du site Web ottawa.ca ou communiquez avec :

Randy Dempsey, ingénieur principal, Projets d'infrastructure

Services d'infrastructure et Viabilité de la communauté

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Detours ahead, from page 1



Proposed light transit line, stations and path of the Rideau St. renewal.

So you think you'll take the bike instead of dealing with all these detours, eh? On September 4, 2012, the City of Ottawa **multi-use pathway** on the west side of the Rideau River will be closed until May 2013, to provide construction access from the west side of the Rideau River (both north and south of Highway 417). During this closure, alternate access across Highway 417 is available via Robinson Avenue and Lees Avenue, and will be signed as a detour route.

From 2012 to 2015 the existing pathway connection on the north side of 417 between Hurdman Road and the existing pathway along the west side of the Rideau River will be closed for the duration of highway construction, with a detour provided via Robinson Avenue.

The pathway along the south side of Highway 417 between the access road to 200 Lees Avenue and the pathway along the Rideau River will also be closed for the duration of highway construction, with a detour provided around the proposed University of Ottawa sports field site. The pathway on the east side of the river will remain open.

Let the interesting times begin! Rideau Street torn up from Dalhousie to Cummings Bridge. Part of Rideau Street blocked by construction of the OLRT's Rideau Station. Look for a large trench on Waller and alongside Nicholas for light rails. The Lees Avenue overpass out of commission for 3+/- months and the entrance lane to the Queensway from Lees Avenue will disappear for 3 years. Pathway traffic will be blocked and/or detoured.

Happy motoring, busing and biking in Sandy Hill!

NewsBite

Rideau Street Renewal

Construction is imminent. The City's project head, Randy Dempsey, will tell all at a Public Open House on the Rideau Street Renewal Project for April 26 from 6 PM to 8:30 at the Le Patro Community Centre on 40 Cobourg Street. There will be a display of project designs. Solutions to traffic and construction disruption for residents and businesses will be presented, and City staff and consultants will be available to answer questions.

The construction includes new features and rehabilitation/replacement of:

- Sidewalks, cycling facilities, and transit facilities

- Possible street amenities including landscaping and public art
- Street lighting and regulatory signage
- Traffic control signal system
- Road structure and pavement
- Water mains, sanitary, storm and combined sewers
- Lateral services to the property line;
- Utilities as required.

Phase 1 construction will begin in June, with scheduled completion by December 2012. Renewal will occur in two phases: Phase 1—2012, Dalhousie Street to Chapel Street, with streetscaping works completed in spring 2013. Phase 2—2013 will see construction continuing from Chapel Street to Cummings Bridge.

—Larry Newman



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The morning after St. Patrick's Day: a low point in town and gown relations.

Town and gown – can we redress the imbalance?

Judy Rinfret

I was hesitant to take on the assignment of writing about what happened in Sandy Hill on St. Patrick's Day. Perhaps better to ignore what has already been talked and written about in various networks; signs of disruption have dwindled; a new season is upon us and hope springs eternal.

But IMAGE is Sandy Hill's exclusive opportunity for community news and views. Too many residents have been deeply disturbed by what might have begun as a joyful celebration of youth and new beginnings, but devolved to a drunken, destructive brawl.

March 17 has not traditionally been an excuse for a blow-out celebration; so the St. Pat's green-themed parties, on balconies and in front, back and side yards, may have surprised us, but we were not angry or alarmed. For those of us who were once young, it is not such a stretch to recall the early arrival of spring as a time to flex our youthful exuberance and let loose some pent-up energies. But by mid to late afternoon, the pent-up energies had escalated alarmingly – some sectors of Sandy Hill were scenes of debauchery, recklessness and even menace.

Was this preventable? Will it happen again? According to a couple of student braggarts, it will. What is going on?

Sandy Hill's population seems to be changing from a reasonable mix of permanent and temporary residents to perhaps an over abundance of the latter. The University of Ottawa now has a population of 40,000 students and still plans to grow. There are very few campus residences to house them; there is a noticeable increase in students who are crowding into former family homes, especially within walking distance of the campus. Obviously short-term residents may have little or no commitment to Sandy Hill.

Christopher Collmorgen, president of Action Sandy Hill, has been making valiant efforts to include the university community. Even he was disheartened by the debauchery on St. Patrick's Day. In a letter to the President of U of O he wrote: "The cost to the city for responding to the vandalism and hooliganism, and dealing with the aftermath, has yet to be quantified. It will not be insignificant. I can assure you that the cost in community goodwill towards the University of Ottawa at the moment is much greater."

U of O President Allan Rock has expressed his disappointment: "There was aggressive and irresponsible behaviour that frightened and offended many of our neighbours... This behaviour also demonstrated a profound lack of respect for common values in our community on the part of those involved. This is not the behaviour that is expected – or is typical – of our university community."

Councillor Mathieu Fleury has said the city's by law and police officers must be more aware and proactive. "By coordinating ... more effectively and ensuring that operations begin earlier in the day, we are hopeful that our city services will more

effectively manage celebrations before they escalate to unmanageable levels."

We as a community cannot, through sheer effort and good will, ensure a peaceable kingdom. Both the city and the university are responsible for the well-being of this neighbourhood when individuals may not be. Certainly on March 17 more than friendly persuasion was required.

Do we who live here have the courage and commitment to insist certain expectations must be respected? Our city has by-laws to ensure civility. But it seems the onus is on good neighbours to request enforcement of reasonable standards, and that request may not be acted upon. As one neighbour says, "Landlords are driven by the dollar and the city is somewhat relaxed in ensuring building codes, zoning regulations and that by-laws are followed and enforced."

Seemingly minor infractions cannot be ignored. The ASH Good Neighbours Committee has been working tirelessly to ensure property standards issues are enforced fairly and comprehensively but it is an uphill effort. Rules and regulations are not fun or fashionable.

Is the university at least partly responsible for off-campus student actions? More recently universities, especially in smaller Canadian communities, are developing "codes of conduct" for all students, residing on or off campus, and are assuming the costs of compliance; off-campus housing may be licensed and therefore monitored and inspected, which protects and benefits students, landlords, and neighbours. This seems long overdue in Sandy Hill where perhaps we have all hoped common sense would prevail or, as one neighbour said to President Rock, "Like so many other things in our society – pollution, poverty, obesity, crime – ignoring a problem upstream, makes it hard to make changes downstream."

Efforts to involve student tenants in our community have made some difference – students help with the maintenance of the hockey rink in Sandy Hill Park, there have been neighbourly visits to student households and barbeque parties hosted by ASH, community awards for the best-maintained student properties or neighbourhood initiatives and recycling of furniture and e-waste sponsored by U of O.

But after March 17 and other disturbing events, Mr Collmorgen is more urgently insisting on a "town and gown committee" which would include representatives from the police, city by-law enforcement, Councillor Fleury, ASH, and U of O students and administration. "Our expectation is that the town and gown committee, together with the creation of a University of Ottawa community liaison position, will eventually yield a new 'culture of community' that will be institutionalized in the fabric of the University of Ottawa – like bilingualism, accessibility, gender equality, and multiculturalism. The committee will, among other goals, work together to engender civic responsibility and actively discourage the kind of anti-social and illegal activities that we witnessed in Sandy Hill – we have some significant work ahead of us."



SOMETHING OLD SOMETHING NEW An historical house tour in Sandy Hill

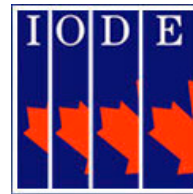
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Technology shifts at the checkout counter

Ron Hodgson

Things just aren't the same at the checkout counter anymore. When I was a teenager, like many others, I worked at a Loblaw's supermarket as a packer and shelf stacker after school and weekends. In those days the stores were only open late on Thursdays and Fridays—late meaning 9 pm—and on Saturdays they closed at 6 pm. Naturally they were closed on Sundays.

After working there for a few months the manager asked me if I would like to fill in occasionally as a cashier. Apparently he'd had a chat with my math teacher at my high school and I'd been recommended as a good bet for this job because of my math skills. In those distant days each item was stamped with the price on the package, and the job of the cashier was to read and ring in the appropriate price. It wasn't too long before I had memorized the price of most common items, and I could even make a good estimate of the cost of a cart full of groceries. However, most of my time was spent stacking shelves and there was a fair bit of re-pricing too. When the price of an item changed it was necessary to put stickers over the old prices showing the updated cost. Mistakes were probably frequent and price changes were not always easy to decipher.

Flash forward to 2012. I don't think skill with math is as important anymore since all that is required of the cashier now is the ability to optically scan the barcode on the vastly larger array of items now found in supermarkets. The scan reflects whatever price has been assigned to that barcode. Barcodes help track items, determine stock levels, and also reduce instances of shoplifting involving price tag swapping. Pricing changes can be done very quickly by simply changing the information triggered by the scanner when the barcode is scanned. But the human factor is still there and mistakes, especially when prices change for a sale or special promotion, can occur. We shouldn't take for granted that the barcode actually reflects what we expect to pay. Accuracy is critical to the merchandiser and the customer.

Consequently a few years ago the Scanner Price Accuracy Code was developed to demonstrate that retailers are committed to scanner price accuracy. The way it works is this. If you buy an item that is incorrectly priced higher than its advertised or shelf price, the lower price will be honoured and:

(a) if the correct price of the product is \$10 or less, the retailer will give the product to the customer free of charge; or



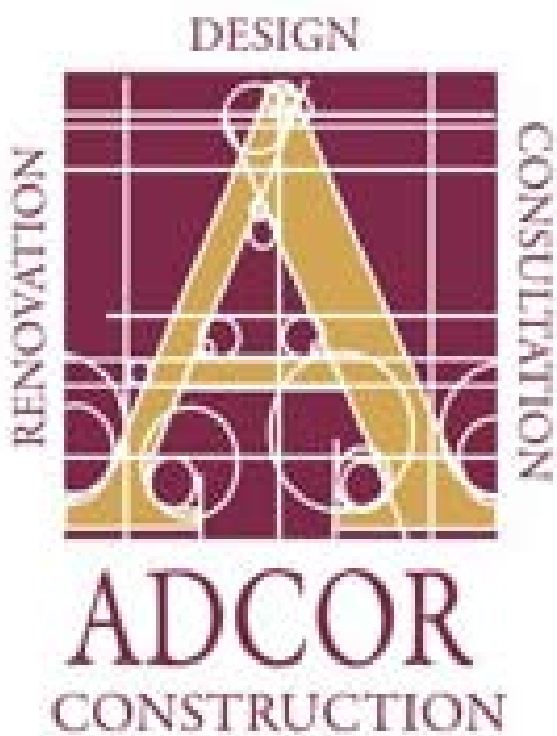
b) if the correct price of the product is higher than \$10, the retailer will give the customer a discount of \$10 off the corrected price.

Most major stores subscribe to this code. According to it, retailers are duty bound to post a notice that they subscribe to the Code in a conspicuous location at or near the entrance to the store. Also they are supposed to train their staff to observe the Code rules. You can get a complete list of the major stores by going to <http://www.retailcouncil.org/> and then navigating to the Scanner Price Accuracy page. There are also numerous independent locations as well as a couple of notable exceptions such as Farm Boy, a retailer that many of us use locally, and not surprisingly, the LCBO.

In one of the last key roles assigned to the cashier, that person becomes the front line arbiter of any differences of opinion concerning scanner price accuracy. If they are not well trained, a price query can take up a lot of time since it may involve a call to the supervisor or manager and cashiers can sometimes be expected to take the situation personally.

Of course the next shift in the checkout technology saga is the apparent elimination of cashiers in general. When the necessary skill level gets low enough it's possible to replace the individual with a robot. That's what the "self-checkout" positions that are being installed in many stores are all about. In some ways this is a good thing as it puts the onus back on you, the customer to ensure that the scanned price is the same as that which you expect to pay.

After all these years I've become a cashier again!



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Le français correct ✓✓✓

par Denyse Mulvihill

Améliorer son français, c'est la responsabilité de chacun. Attention de ne pas confondre le sens français avec le sens anglais de certains mots.

On doit dire :

> **Composer le numéro de l'indicatif régional**, qui signifie « combiner les chiffres qui indiquent la région que l'on veut joindre » - non pas - composer le numéro du code régional, ce qui est un anglicisme.

Ex. - Depuis quelques années déjà, il faut toujours composer le numéro de l'indicatif régional de la personne qu'on appelle, si l'on veut avoir la communication désirée.

> **Rappeler quelqu'un au téléphone**, qui signifie « appeler de nouveau, après un message reçu par téléphone » - non pas - retourner un appel, ce qui est un anglicisme.

Ex. - Après avoir entendu tous les messages reçus par son appareil automatique branché à son téléphone, le jeune universitaire s'est empressé à rappeler tous ceux qui désiraient lui parler.

> **Rester à l'écoute**, qui signifie « ne pas raccrocher, ne pas couper, continuer à attendre la reprise de la communication » - non pas - garder la ligne, ce qui est un anglicisme.

Ex. - À l'heure actuelle, il arrive très souvent que l'on entende cette formule de rester à l'écoute, alors que, pour avoir un renseignement, l'on désire parler à quelqu'un de précis et qu'au contraire d'une voix humaine, on n'entende que le silence ou peut-être quelques arpèges musicaux !

> **Préparer son avenir**, qui signifie « penser au temps qui passe, réfléchir à sa destinée dans la vie, à ses espoirs de succès » - non pas - préparer son futur, ce qui est un temps de verbe en français, donc un anglicisme si employé comme nom.

Ex. - Dans le contexte économique que l'on vit présentement, il est important, plus que jamais, pour les jeunes adultes surtout, de bien préparer leur avenir, froidement et consciencieusement, afin de réaliser le succès qu'ils visent dans la discipline qu'ils ont choisie.

> **Voir, sentir un problème**, qui signifie « anticiper une difficulté quelconque, ressentir un malaise devant une situation instable » - non pas - voir, sentir une problématique, qui signifie « l'art ou la science de poser des problèmes. »

Ex. - Lorsque, dans certaines circonstances, l'on arrive à voir un problème imprévu, l'on doit s'efforcer de l'envisager calmement afin de le résoudre froidement et sans détours émotionnels et afin d'obtenir un résultat efficace, voire indiscutable.

> **Faire face à une échéance**, qui signifie « la date à laquelle expire un délai ou à laquelle un travail doit être accompli » - non pas - faire face à un échancier, qui signifie « le registre des effets à payer ou à recevoir. »

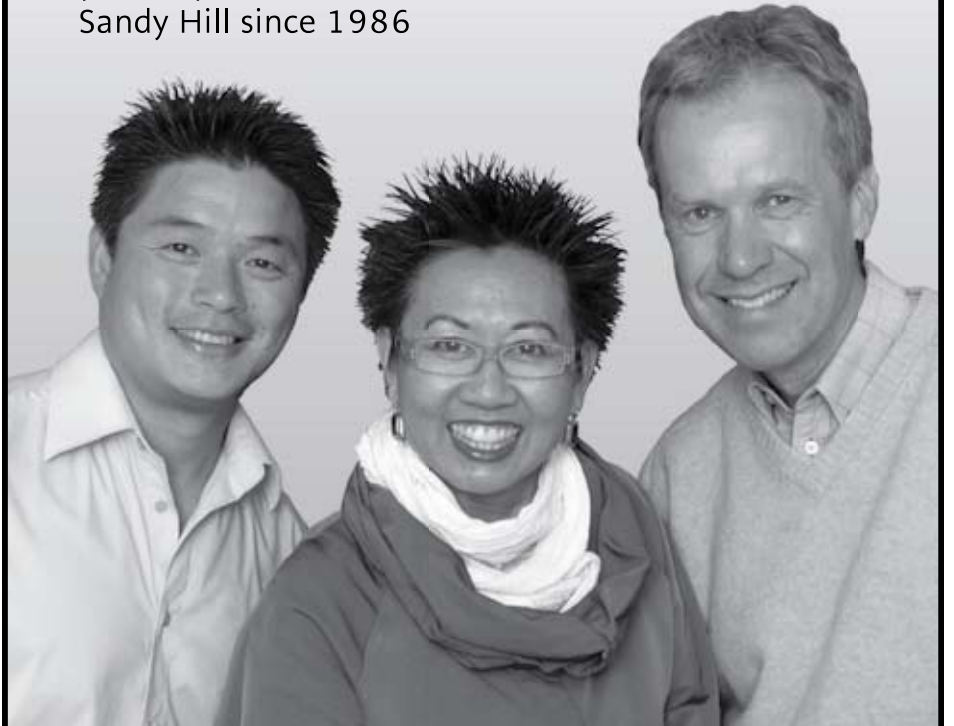
Ex. - Quand on doit faire face à une échéance, que ce soit une obligation intellectuelle dans une profession, ou bien un travail manuel dans un métier, il faut toujours tenir compte de la date du délai prévu pour accomplir le travail en question et aussi pour la parole donnée, afin de faire face à l'échéance honorablement.

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Yvonne van Alphen

T.A.N. Coffee, a microroaster café, the only one of its kind in Ottawa, located in the front section of the Sandy Hill People Food Co-op, has finally opened in our neighbourhood and coffee drinkers are enjoying the taste.

Erin Cochrane, owner and operator of T.A.N. Coffee, and a founding member of the Sandy Hill Pet Food Co-op, came to Sandy Hill at age 19 to study biochemistry and chemical engineering at the University of Ottawa and lived in an apartment located on Daly Avenue for over seven years.

"I loved the neighbourhood, the community, the architecture, the mix of resi-

dents, and the constant ebb and flow of the seasonal traffic."

Later, during time spent in Nova Scotia, she discovered T.A.N. Coffee. T.A.N. Coffee, founded by Lay Yong Tan, now an international coffee judge, is an organization of like-minded individuals supporting fair trade coffee producers. Producers growing high-quality coffee beans in countries like Bolivia, Columbia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, and Sumatra, are guaranteed a living wage from their small to mid-sized coffee farms.

"I had been bringing T.A.N. coffee back to Ottawa in large quantities for almost a year before I coincidentally met my business partner on a Porter flight between Ottawa and Halifax," Ms. Cochrane told me.

After this chance encounter, and already inspired by the product and T.A.N.'s business philosophy, Ms. Cochrane began laying the ground work for her own business.

"After a year of planning, I made an attempt to get the café off the ground. I met many obstacles ... so I reformulated my plan, accepted a teaching contract, and worked on T.A.N. Coffee Sandy Hill for another year."

The groundwork in place, construction began in December 2010. On April 4, 2011, T.A.N. Coffee Sandy Hill opened for business. "Just as expected, the community was warm with anticipation, and supportive from Day One," she says.

The mighty T.A.N. roaster.

What makes T.A.N. coffee different from its competitors is the quality of the coffee beans. Additionally, the beans are roasted in small batches, once or twice a week, ensuring that the coffee is fresh and coffee drinkers experience a wide range of flavours, like blueberry, chocolate, lemon, and currant - which can be lost seven days after roasting.

Inside the café, you can't help notice a small black and silver batch shop roaster, made in Turkey, which can roast up to ten kilograms of beans in a rotating drum, heated by a gas flame. This machine, although not yet operational, has been modified to include a microchip. The microchip attaches to a laptop and records important information like the roasting time and temperature for each roasting run. Combining these results along with those of a taste sample ensures the coffee is always at its very best.

"The lighter the roast, the more caffeine the coffee beans have, contrary to popular belief that darker, bolder roasts have a higher caffeine content," Ms. Cochrane explains.

Since its opening, this café has met the community's call for food. Healthy sandwiches, wraps and soups are made on the premises while a number of other food options are locally sourced. For example, Haveli Restaurant in the Byward Market delivers baked vegetarian, fried vegetarian, and fried chicken samosas, served with a homemade tamarind sauce, three times a week. B. Goods Bakery provides a daily selection of cookies, including ginger molasses, orange hazelnut, cinnamon kasha, maple pecan, and chocolate chili. Another Sandy Hill business, Vegetarian



"All our coffee is fair trade, organic, and single origin." — Erin Cochrane, owner and operator, T.A.N. (The Alternative Network) Coffee, Sandy Hill

Treasures, supplies vegan and gluten-free salads.

Ms Cochrane says, "We are going to focus on our menu and the varied dietary needs of our customers in the upcoming year."

If you are interested in sampling a cup of T.A.N. coffee and would like to compare it to other brews, consider participating in the first ever Indie Café Passport in Ottawa on **May 1, 2012**. For \$25, you can buy a passport and sample 12 other coffees. Tickets available at T.A.N. Coffee, 317 Wilbrod Street.

Photo David Elden



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La Maison Besserer, un joyau du patrimoine bâti de la Côte-de-Sable.

La Maison Besserer en vedette lors du 51e « House and Garden Tours » de l'IODE

Michel Prévost

L'IODE, chapitre Laurentien, tient cette année son 51e « House and Garden Tour » dans la Côte de Sable. En effet, le vendredi 8 juin et le samedi 9 juin, de 10 h à 14 h, une dizaine de maisons historiques et de jardins seront ouverts au grand public. Au nombre des places à découvrir, notons l'ambassade de la Pologne, la Maison Wallis et l'ancienne maison de Cairine Wilson, la première femme nommée au Sénat en 1930. Il faut toutefois se procurer des billets à l'avance. Les profits seront versés à Nelson House et à des œuvres visant l'élimination de la violence faite aux femmes, ainsi qu'à des activités éducatives.

J'aurai le privilège de vous accueillir à la superbe maison patrimoniale Besserer, à l'angle des avenues King-Edward et Daly. Cette imposante maison en pierre de style géorgien, construite vers 1860, s'avère l'une des plus anciennes du quartier. De plus, elle a été érigée pour loger la famille du notaire Louis-Théodore Besserer, que l'on surnomme le père de la Côte-de-Sable, puisque la Couronne lui cède, en 1828, un immense domaine qui s'étire de

la rue Rideau à l'avenue Laurier, et de la rivière Rideau à la rue Waller. Certes, ces terrains valent une fortune aujourd'hui, mais ce n'était vraiment pas le cas avant qu'Ottawa devienne la capitale du Canada en 1867.

Par ailleurs, il y a un lien très étroit entre l'Université d'Ottawa et M. Besserer. En fait, c'est lui qui donne des terrains sur la rue Wilbrod, aujourd'hui la rue Séraphin-Marion, afin que Mgr Joseph-Eugène Guigues, le premier évêque catholique de Bytown, vienne y installer son collège qui deviendra par la suite l'Université d'Ottawa.

Venez découvrir ce personnage fascinant, son lien avec l'Université canadienne et surtout l'histoire de cette maison lors de cet événement organisé par l'IODE. Je serai sur place pendant les deux jours pour répondre à vos questions. De plus, des descendants de Besserer seront aussi sur place pour vous accueillir. Ne manquez pas cet événement historique.

Pour réserver vos billets au coût de 30,00 \$ afin de visiter toutes les maisons et jardins, veuillez composer le 613-745-0631 ou voir le site web : <http://laurentian.iode.ca>

Images of architecture at St. Alban's

Heritage expert David Jeanes talks about architect James Mather during a Sandy Hill heritage tour, June 2012

The renovators will soon be putting down their tools at St. Alban's Church on King Edward Avenue, which has been undergoing a major renewal in months past. And, in June, the renewed church will be taking part in a two-day neighbourhood heritage event. The IODE Laurentian Chapter – a women's service group founded in 1906 – is hosting a very special House and Garden Tour this year. In 1961, when the group pioneered the house tour as a means of raising money for charity, the emphasis was on grand spaces and lavish décor. While splendid homes are not in short supply in Sandy Hill, the focus this year has expanded to include the history of what organizers call "one of the oldest and most interesting neighbourhoods in Ottawa."

Neighbourhood churches are weighing in as venues: St. Alban's Church in particular will be the site of an illustrated lecture by Ottawa heritage expert, David Jeanes (2:30 pm, Saturday, June 9) talking about architect James Mather (who designed Le Cordon Bleu and Laurier House). Just up the street, All Saints will welcome cellist Julian Armour and the Chamber Players, who will present short concerts throughout the day on both June 8 and 9.



Photo S. Pulsifer

The historic St. Alban's Church, 454 King Edward at Daly.

The program for the Laurentian Chapter House and Garden Tour – Friday, June 8 and Saturday, June 9, from 10 am to 2 pm daily – is certainly a rich one! Nine Open Houses include the fabulous renovation of a stylish 1920s house, two lofty apartments in the magnificent Wallis House (the old Protestant Hospital), the Polish Residence and the 1850s Besserer House. Expert interpreters and special guests will also be on hand – for example, IMAGE columnist and uOttawa archivist Michel Prévost will be present at Besserer House, and Senator Landon Pearson at a house formerly occupied by Cairine Wilson (Canada's first female senator, appointed to the Senate after the 1929 Persons Case).

Proceeds from the tour will go to the Nelson House shelter and to a range of social and educational projects.

Tickets: \$30. Call 613-842-5304. Website: laurentian.iode.ca

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Ottawa Carleton District School Board Trustee Report

Viscount Alexander Capital Dollars

The Board has been re-examining its established capital priority list at Business Services Committee meetings on the subject in both March and April. A consensus may be emerging to cut back the ever-growing, unranked, list of 12 or so major capital priorities to just 3-5, and to retain some priority for the others as part of an official 'B-list'. This would be a new way of proceeding for our board, as in the past we simply had one unranked list of capital priorities to submit to the Ministry.

However, how exactly we proceed and what our renewed capital project priority list(s) will look like will not be decided until late April. And, we will not hear from the Ministry about what it is willing to fund until late in the school year.

A first read of the recent provincial budget suggests that the government, currently not squeezing capital projects extraordinarily, is still very constrained. There is some hope that some of our A-list projects will get funded and room will open up for ones on the B-list.

Viscount Alexander PS is growing as forecast, and next year will be a thriving school, at or above its rated capacity. A portable may be needed next year and if not, certainly the year after that.

Though the Viscount addition is a fairly cheap project (I am guessing \$2-4 million), it might also make sense to renovate sections of the existing school at the same time. A modest project fund - about \$350,000 - is available for the Viscount addition as part of a special capital stream to create full-day kindergarten space. Helpful but of course nowhere near sufficient, this money cannot currently be used.

Given that some schools are bursting (the fire marshal is preventing some from installing more than 20 portables) and constrained financial circumstances, it is increasingly likely that Viscount will not get its addition as planned for September 2013 nor be an 'A-list' capital project for now. However, since Viscount is our Board's only Sandy Hill school, is exactly the sort of true multi-program community school the Board envisions, and (especially) is likely to start accumulating portables, Viscount should be promoted from B- to A-list. Any eventual project go-ahead will, however, be contingent on the government funding our highest priority projects.

Special Education

A year ago the Board struck a Special Education Policy Ad Hoc Committee (SEPAHC) consisting of three trustees and two SEAC reps to advise on a renewed policy and perhaps also on procedural or other improvements.

The committee met 28 times, ran a major public consultation, and has now produced a comprehensive report - item 10 at www.ocdsb.ca/Lists/Board%20Meeting%20Calendar/DispForm.aspx?ID=342. I can attest that discussions were wide-ranging and an amazing consensus developed. It is being introduced to the Education Committee this month.

We recommended improvements to communications and consultation, adoption of a designated school model for specialized classes, greater equity between special needs students and regular students generally, further reports to the commission, and draft text for a new policy.

If these recommendations are adopted, these students would have greater stability, and their parents clearer and more timely information. We hope that it may lead long term to greater client satisfaction over all.

Meeting and document info is available at www.ocdsb.ca. If you have a suggestion or concern, or would like to be added to my e-newsletter list, please contact me.

rob@ocdsbzone9.ca 613 323-7803



Rob Campbell, Trustee
Ottawa-Carleton District School Board

Roger's community includes Shawenjeagamik Aboriginal Drop-in

Larry Newman

Roger Louttit, a Cree, is homeless, living at the Shepherds of Good Hope and on the street. He and his brother Peter panhandle on Rideau Street. In February, IMAGE visited one of Roger's daytime resource-providers, Centre 454. Now, we head up Rideau to visit the Aboriginal House of Compassion.

It's pretty easy to miss this drop-in centre at 510 Rideau Street. It's a small, clapboard house on the south side of the street between Augusta and Cobourg; no sign on the door or the house. Open the door and you are likely to see a pile of knapsacks and a worker sitting on a chair monitoring everyone entering.

The drop-in provides service to urban Aboriginals who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless. No alcohol, no drugs allowed; you can smoke outside in the backyard. Turn left and enter a room with tables and chairs for 26 people, and a large TV set. Toward the back of the room is a door to the kitchen.

"Breakfast is served from 8 to 9, lunch from 11:30 to 1, and dinner from 3:30 to 5. Everybody must be out of the centre by 5 pm so the staff can clean," says the manager Carrie Diabo.

Diabo's office is on the second floor, where she shares space by the laundry room and the computer room. The rest of the upstairs is used for small workshops and meetings, and storage for hygiene supplies, craft materials and donated clothing. Since they started spring cleaning, some wiggle room has freed up between the door to her office and her desk.

This drop-in centre is one of many programs developed by the Odawa Native Friendship Centre. Within the drop-in centre, it's laundry starting at 9, with showers and computers made available at 10. The clients sit, play games, use the laundry and shower facilities, watch TV and movies, or make crafts. Occasional workshops emphasize life skills and Aboriginal culture.

The values reinforced at Shawenjeagamik drop-in centre are the "Seven Gifts of the Grandfather Teachings".

- Nibwaakaawin—Wisdom: To cherish knowledge is to know wisdom
- Zaagi'idiwin—Love: To know love is to know peace
- Minaadendamowin—Respect: To honour all creation is to have respect
- Aakode'ewin—Bravery: Bravery is to face the foe with integrity

Roger Louttit



Photo Larry Newman

- Gwayakwaadiziwin—Honesty: Honesty in facing a situation is to be brave
- Dabaadendiziwin—Humility: Humility is to know yourself as a sacred part of Creation
- Debwewin—Truth: Truth is to know all of these things

These teachings are used in life skills workshops. "Every race has its own teachings which may be similar to ours," Diabo says. "But they still need to be taught to those who are not familiar with them." The teachings are brought forward in work with the Inuit, who are relatively new to the streets of Ottawa, Métis and Aboriginal clients from First Nations, some of whom have non-Aboriginal partners.

The workshops take place in the main room of the Centre. Participation is optional, but those not participating must respect those who are. The staff conduct workshops covering a variety of Aboriginal cultures and training relating to job requirements. On occasion, Elders, specialists and workers from partner organizations are brought in as facilitators.

IMAGE asked Diabo if she sees the effect of residential schools on students' second and subsequent generations. "Oh yes, there is definitely an intergenerational impact. For example, those who were not allowed to speak their first language while at residential or Indian day schools could not pass on their native language to their children. This means that the language-linked culture was somewhat lost to the next and subsequent generations."

It's a tough life for these people. Peter Louttit goes to the centre often. Roger goes too sometimes. Carrie stresses that Shawenjeagamik Centre must respect the neighbourhood and remain a safe place for all who visit. So zero tolerance for drinking or drunkenness is necessary.

Shawenjeagamik means House of Compassion in the Algonquin language. More information about it and its parent organization is available at www.odawa.on.ca/home.htm.

Photo Michael Arno



Sandy Hill boy heads to championships

Ethan McKinley-Young is a resident of Marlborough Ave and grade 7 student at York Street Public School. He was selected to represent Ontario at the Canada East Short Track Championships in Sherbrooke. He competed in the 12 year old boys division and is pictured here during a 200m pursuit race.

York St. School opens new literacy centre

The new Parenting and Family Literacy Centre at York St. school north of Sandy Hill helps children (babies-age 6) build language and social skills, with family members being actively involved. They become more familiar with school routines before starting kindergarten. It is open Mon-Thurs 8:30 - 1:30, is free to attend and no pre-registration is required. Come and meet Becky Cronin for information or call 613-596-8211 x3207.



A summary of recent IMAGE restaurant reviews and food features, plus other advice from our contributors about where to find great food in and around Sandy Hill. Please send news of your recent Sandy Hill food discoveries to image22@rogers.com

Fleur Tea House, 287 Somerset St. E.

Making good use of the space that once housed Casa Mia, this cosy spot offers a vast variety of teas as well as all sorts of coffees, hot chocolate, and assorted pastries. Sandwiches may also be available by the time this paper hits the street. There's live music every second Saturday night, and at any time it's a relaxing place to sit, sip on something warm, and use the free WiFi or watch the world go by.

Govinda's, 212 Somerset St. East

This Hare Krishna-run neighbourhood landmark has been serving vegan food at unbeatable prices for 30 years. The buffet of salad, vegetable curries, and dessert is open for dinner from 5:00-8:00, Monday to Friday. Supper will set you back \$5.00 for students, \$7.00 for everyone else.

Main St. Farmers' Market

May 5 will be this year's opening day for the market that takes over the St. Paul's University parking lot on summer Saturdays from 9:00-2:00. All vendors come from within 100 miles of Old Ottawa East, and this year's weather suggests that the first arugula should be ready soon!

Nini's Panini Bar, 307 Rideau

Located inside the Union Smoke Shop (and a couple of doors away from the By-Towne Cinema), Nini's offers a wide variety of tasty panini, wraps, and sandwiches that will please vegetarian and carnivore alike. On a recent visit the Mediterranean grilled veggie and nutty chicken brie panini were exceptionally delicious. The friendly proprietor has obviously set out to please eaters of all stripes and even offers gluten-free options. There is no eating area, so service is take-away only.

Open until 6:00 from Monday to Saturday and closed on Sunday.

People Food Co-op, 317 Wilbrod St.

Hurrying to a meeting recently and needing to bring along a snack to share, I ducked into the People Food Co-op and was delighted to discover an assortment of spreads from Arnprior's Bread Lady. I have enjoyed these before at local farmers' markets; the Organic Thai Tofu & Peanut Butter Spread is a particular favourite at our house, and the Bombay Hummus is a tasty twist on an old friend. With pita bread or some whole-grain crackers, these spreads make a nourishing treat; so much better than a bag of cookies!

Pho OU, 233 Laurier Ave. East

In the former home of Johnny Pizza a new kind of fast food is on offer. Pho (Vietnamese noodle soup) comes in 3 sizes; the small bowl at 5.99 is big enough for a filling lunch. The menu offers a choice of beef or chicken broth, with a variety of meats or shrimp. To the steaming bowl of noodles, broth and topping, add a squirt of lime juice, a little Thai basil and a generous pile of bean sprouts; then season to taste with hot sauce. The vegetarian spring rolls make a tasty accompaniment.



News from Viscount Alexander Public School

Michael Barnes

Winter "Walk to School" day

On Monday, February 13, there were many children walking to school in Sandy Hill as Viscount Alexander Public School hosted Winter Walk to School Day. Thanks to all the students, parents, volunteers, and staff who pulled together this fantastic event.

Mayor Jim Watson; Jennifer McKenzie, Ottawa-Carleton District School Board Chair; Jennifer Adams, OCDSB Director of Education; Barbara McInnes, Community Foundation of Ottawa CEO and president; Micheline Turnau, Heart and Stroke Foundation; Councillor Marianne Wilkinson; Councillor Mathieu Fleury and Dr. Vera Etches, Associate Medical Officer of Health, took a victory lap with Viscount students around Sandy Hill to celebrate the growth and success of the Ottawa School Travel Planning Project (STP).

"It's important to encourage our kids to be active, and facilitating a safer walk to school is just one way we can do that," said Mayor Watson.

"The OCDSB is proud to be able to support the work of Green Communities Canada and the School Travel Planning Project," said Jennifer McKenzie.

A MetroNews article about the event noted that Grade 5 student Robyn Colbran said she used to take the bus, but now prefers to walk with her friends. "We're saving the world one step at a time," she said. Who told her that? No one, she said, she thought it up while walking to school.

The balloons, hot chocolate, banners and muffins were perfect and our students were excellent hosts to our VIPs. Those who walked to school that day made up 71% of our students. The Golden Boot award was won by the Grade 3/4; 88% of that class walked. We are very proud to say that Viscount is a leader in promoting the Walking School Bus and a model for the entire OCDSB.

A truly special teacher!

Mrs Dianne Hough, a long serving primary teacher, is retiring. She joined the staff at Viscount in 1993 and has been with us for the past 20 years. Mrs Gayle Singer, Principal, honoured this truly special teacher in an address, praising her understanding of students and her leadership and enthusiasm in and out of the classroom, thanked her for her dedicated service and caring professionalism, and concluded by saying: "We remember our teachers who made a difference, those teachers who touched our lives and those teachers who cared. Dianne, you are all of those and more."

Math frog

Thank you to the University of Waterloo, Faculty of Mathematics, for bringing MathFROG to Viscount. Our students were introduced to fun math resources and online math games. This was met with great enthusiasm.

The website mathfrog.ca is free and available in both French and English. Each activity integrates an excellent online game/tool with high-quality paper and pencil follow-up activities.

Extended day care

With the introduction of Full Day Kindergarten in September 2012, the community is offered Extended Day Care at Viscount. This program will only be offered if there is sufficient interest in having it here. Surveys are available in the office. So far, thirty-seven families have indicated they are interested in the program. A final decision regarding the program at Viscount will be made in early spring.

Please note that transportation to existing day care providers in the community will not be affected.

Full Day Kindergarten Info Night

May 10, 2012, 6 p.m. New or prospective Viscount parents are warmly welcome. If you have any questions about Viscount please call the school office at 613-239-2213. They will be pleased to help you.

A Governor General Award winner in our mixed neighbourhood

Betsy Mann



Diana Nemiroff

Sandy Hill is often referred to as a "mixed neighbourhood," a polite way of saying that on garbage day you might see men with shopping carts coming around to check your blue box for refundable bottles, and on St. Patrick's Day you might hear the students across the street out on their porch to drink Guinness and listen to music playing loudly on their car stereo. But making your home in Sandy Hill also means that your neighbour could be a famous author, a respected judge or, if you live next door to Diana Nemiroff, the director of the Carleton University Art Gallery (CUAG) and recipient of numerous prestigious awards.

In the last year, Ms. Nemiroff has been honoured with a lifetime achievement award from the Ontario Association of Art Galleries, induction into the Royal Society of Canada, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal and, most recently, a Governor General's Award for Visual and Media Arts in the category of outstanding contribution to contemporary visual and/or media arts. Her contributions span over 30 years, more than 20 of them at the National Gallery of Canada where she finished as a senior curator before taking charge of Carleton's gallery in 2005.

Ms. Nemiroff worked on several ground-breaking exhibitions for the National Gallery over the years and was involved in some important acquisitions for its contemporary collection, but she doesn't see her move to a small university gallery as a step down. "I've never worked harder than I do here!" she says. "I find it especially rewarding to be helping bring along the next generation of art historians and curators. For instance, I worked with a group of grad students through the process of co-curating an exhibition of one 20th century artist's works drawn from the university's collection. They had to choose works, make a case for their selection based on governing themes, present the finished exhibit and produce a publication. Some of them had never handled original art before. It was very exciting."

In addition to her role as director of CUAG, Ms. Nemiroff holds the position of adjunct professor in both the School for Studies in Art and Culture at Carleton and the Department of Visual Arts at Ottawa U. "My teaching relates to museums and exhibitions," she points out. "For in-

stance, I taught a course which focussed on key exhibitions of the 20th century, a different point of view than the one art history courses usually take." Ms. Nemiroff sees the curator's role as helping the artist realize his or her vision while bringing the work to the public. "Because I have worked mostly with living artists, I have been able to build close partnerships with them," she says and goes on to explain, "With contemporary art, the viewer is probably encountering the artist's work for the first time. The curator acts as a bridge and a mediator to help viewers understand how and why the artist has chosen to express his or her vision in this way. The exciting part for me is the interpretive and educational aspects." CUAG is able to reach the wider art community across Canada and fulfill its interpretive and educational roles thanks to its exhibition catalogues and other publications.

Before retiring in June, Ms Nemiroff is co-curating an exhibit to mark CUAG's 20th anniversary. From May 7 to September 30, *An Embarrassment of Riches* will present works from the gallery's collection, featuring new acquisitions against the backdrop of art acquired before 2006. Ms. Nemiroff laughs when asked whether retirement and "lifetime achievement" awards mean that she will soon be resting on her laurels. "I hardly think of these awards as signalling 'exit, stage left,'" she says. "To stay with the metaphor, I rather think of myself as moving on to the next act." In the next act, her outstanding contribution to visual arts in Canada will certainly continue. "I want to spend more time on my own projects, particularly writing about contemporary art and doing some guest curating," she adds. "I also am involved in launching a program in curatorial studies at Carleton, more of an interdisciplinary program than the museology programs at other universities in Canada."

The next act will doubtless also leave more time for taking walks in the neighbourhood where Ms. Nemiroff has lived for 17 years. "I love Sandy Hill," she exclaims. "The architecture, the urban qualities, the river... it's a great place to live." So next time you're enjoying the scene in Strathcona Park with the other diverse residents of this mixed neighbourhood, you just might run into a Governor General's award winner on the footpaths.

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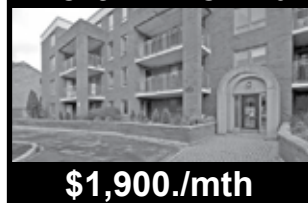
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Welcome to Marlborough Musicland

Peter Twidale

It was jazz pianist Bill Evans who said everyone has what he called “a universal musical mind.” I can’t verify that everyone in Sandy Hill has it, but I can tell you that on my city block (that’s Marlborough Ave. between Somerset and Templeton) it was easy to find six residents who are or were into music in a big way.

Mind you, this is not a band, and the chances of them playing together are probably zero. But that doesn’t diminish them in any way. Each of them has a story to tell.

Ernie Cox

Ever wonder how musicians get started? It happened to Ernie Cox when he was a boy staying on a farm. There was an aunt on the farm who knew how to push a kid’s buttons. As Ernie tells the story, his aunt offered him a deal he couldn’t resist, “Piano lessons in the morning, and play in the barn in the afternoon.”

It must have worked. Years later he graduated in music from the University of Ottawa, and was playing piano in bars and coffee houses in Ottawa and Montreal.

Then his music took a turn into church music. He discovered that music could carry an inner power leading to “a better, fuller and meaningful life.”

Ernie’s first step into religious music was as director of music at Parkdale United Church. This was before earning a degree in divinity from Acadia University.

A few years later, the Reverend Ernie Cox began 17 years as the minister at Fourth Avenue Baptist Church, no doubt filling the church with music.

Ernie continues to play music in and around Ottawa. A highlight was the year he opened for the Montreal Jubilation Gospel Choir at the Tulip Festival. Last Christmas he led two evenings of gospel and blues performance in the Studio of the National Arts Centre.

For Ernie there’s no reason to pull back from his love of music. As a young man he sought instruction to raise his feel for the blues. Now he’s working on jazz, again with an instructor.

Maggy Razafimbahiny

Maggy’s devotion to music is wrapped in the sad story of her family in Madagascar, where she was born. She’s made a project of resurrecting the many talents of her father, a singer, piano player, violinist, composer and poet, who died suddenly in middle age.

Maggy and Dean, her husband, formed a band with Maggy as lead singer to continue the tradition of her father’s music. The band has performed in the Ottawa area, Montreal and as a prestigious highlight the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC.

According to Maggy, of the 26 songs on two CDs recorded here in Ottawa, 22 were composed by her late father, while Dean wrote the music, and Maggy the lyrics, for the other four.

To understand what motivates Maggy you have to know that in Madagascar, where she was raised, singing is a part of life. “I was born into a land of song,” she says. “It was as natural to me as hockey is to Canadians.” She says in Madagascar “people sing at home, in the streets, everywhere . . . their many voices come together and fall into place without training. You could almost say harmony is somehow lodged in our culture.”

“I’ve discovered that the power of music can conquer tragedy and convey love,” Maggy adds. “I found in music the father I had lost when I was a child.”

It’s 43 years since the Beatles put out an album named after a street. That would be Abbey Road. This year IMAGE is paying tribute to six musicians on Marlborough Ave. Although there won’t be an album (they’ve never played as a band) their personal successes are of note.

From left to right in the photo, they are John Villanie, David Stachon, Ernie Cox, Maggy Razafimbahiny, Andrew Snow, and Dean Pallen.



Andrew Snow

For a 12-year-old, peer pressure is everything. Andrew was 12 when he moved from Ottawa to live with his dad in North Carolina. “Everyone’s neighbour was playing something,” he says. “To fit in and have friends I had to learn music, and fast. Every day I bugged my dad for an electric guitar. I got it, and that was my start.”

Andrew’s voyage through music doesn’t end there. Back in Ottawa, he was playing bass in various bands when he bought a flea market violin for \$100. After three years of instruction and practice, and learning to read music, he joined the Ottawa Chamber Orchestra.

Ready for more? How about church music? Fifteen years ago, Andrew knocked on the door of St. Clement church on Mann Avenue and asked to join the choir. As Andrew recalls, the choirmaster said: “Hum this note, please . . . good, you’ve got it. And this . . . good. And this . . . Andrew, welcome to the choir.”

Andrew’s bass still gets a fair bit of use as he continues with jazz, dance and pop gigs in combos and full bands. Andrew has played twice at the Marlborough Street Party, once partnered with Dean Pallen (also featured in this article), and once with rock ‘n’ roll buddies.

Andrew’s day job is as head chef at a retirement home in New Edinburgh. It suits him as his evenings are free for music.

So we have bass, violin, church choir. What’s missing?

Opera, of course. Andrew has been getting his voice in shape for a solo performance in *La Traviata*, staged by Pellegrini Opera, April 20 and 21 at Dominion Chalmers church.

John Villanie

John worked in music for 25 years as a cardholder with the North American Musicians Union. He played soft rock and Latin American music in clubs and at festivals until he retired in 1991. All those years John was with the same band, called Los Caballeros. He handled drums and singing. The first eight years were tough on the band members, who played two and three nights a week AND held down

day jobs. In later years they cut back to one and maybe two times a week.

The band played at places like the former Riverside Hotel, across the Rideau River from Sandy Hill on River Rd., and the Gatineau Club, on the Quebec side.

John is from Italy and that is where his music lessons began at the age of eight. The first two years were enough to discourage anyone without John’s determination. He did nothing but learn to read music, not an instrument in sight.

When the two years were up he chose the saxophone. His learning curve was enhanced by his first professional appearance at 14.

Then something went wrong. John caught a throat virus that impaired breathing and forced him to put away the sax. When asked to choose another “instrument” John became a drummer, a skill he brought with him when he moved to Canada.

Now retired as a professional musician, John keeps a set of drums in the house, but favours a keyboard, and of course, singing.

Dean Pallen

OK, so not everyone on Marlborough Ave. was playing music in their teens

When Dean was growing up he chose to listen to music rather than play it. He was into early rock — David Bowie and Lou Reed.

And further, there were no musicians in the family. No big influences.

But things changed when Dean, in his 20s, got the urge and bought himself a saxophone. “I wanted to sing but wasn’t sure of my voice. The closest instrument to voice is the sax.”

Then followed many hours of music lessons attached to a growing interest in jazz. At early group sessions he had the protection of being one of several saxes playing the same notes.

His next advance was in learning how to run a band, first in support of Maggy, his wife, who sings the music of Madagascar, and later playing jazz.

Next we have Dean the composer. His breakthrough as a composer was the CD,

Strathcona Park, which he also produced. The CD is, of course a tribute to Sandy Hill’s park on the Rideau River.

A question was put to Dean: What do you need to advance your music? “I’ll go for help in recording and packaging my music, in other words, funding. Having deep pockets helps in producing studio sessions.”

Wishful thinking aside, Dean is happy with his music as one part of his life. As he says, “I also get a lot of satisfaction out of coaching a kid’s hockey team.”

David Stachon

The Citizen once profiled David Stachon as “a young talent” and assured readers that the Metcalfe native would become an orchestral percussionist.

That was 15 years ago, soon after David had graduated with a degree in music from the University of Ottawa.

Where is he today? A computer programmer!

David wasn’t prepared to set aside a chunk of his life waiting for a job with an established orchestra. He says: “There would be up to 100 applicants for the two or three full-time positions that turn up yearly in North America.”

None of which matters to David today. He’s happy to move on after some great years in classical music. He was a regular percussionist with the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra until the arrival two years ago of a second baby. He’s played in major events such as making a CBC recording at the National Gallery.

He looks back on those years absorbed in classical music at Ottawa U as a chance to “help me round out my adult personality.”

What’s it take to be a percussionist? “The biggest skill is in not getting lost,” David says. “It’s up to you to know when your moment is.”

These days the memories of drumming in high school rock bands have re-emerged, and David’s putting on the music of Bob Dylan and Bruce Springsteen.

On the lighter side, David says discussing his career in percussion “serves as a great icebreaker and conversation starter.”

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Odyssey leads 2012 Rideau Awards with five nominations



Odyssey Theatre's 2011 production in Strathcona Park of *The Fan* has garnered five nominations (the most for a single production this year) from the Rideau Awards for artistic excellence in locally-produced English and French professional theatre. Odyssey received nominations in the categories of production, direction (David S. Craig), female performance (Rose Napoli, pictured above), male performance (Andy Massingham, also pictured above) and adaptation (David S. Craig). The Rideau Awards will be presented on April 22. "What a wonderful surprise," said General Manager Dana Uzarevic. "Hearing about the nominations triggered feelings of a warm afterglow making us a little nostalgic for the very successful summer 2011 run." Odyssey's 2012 season will feature *The Game of Love and Chance* directed by Andy Massingham.

Ottawa Stilt Union performing in Sandy Hill, May 10 - 12



Laura Astwood towers above Guy Marsan at an Ottawa Stilt Union rehearsal. The stilters like to practise in Bate Hall at All Saints Church where they never have to worry about hitting the ceiling. You can see the Stilt Union in a site-specific performance at SubDevision (St. Paul's Eastern United Church, May 10-11) and with a new creation, *La Toilette* playing at festivals and outdoor sites this summer. Information: ottawastiltunion.ca



Photo Iain MacDonald

Inter Pares: promoting social justice everywhere

Ralph Blaine

In a small unprepossessing Sandy Hill building, streaked with horizontal swatches of cheery blue, a small group of people is working to help people all over the world in their struggles for social justice and democracy. And they are inviting you to a party to meet the staff and find out more about the work they do.

That's what we heard when IMAGE recently met with Samantha McGavin, the Communications Director of Inter Pares, in their pleasant, naturally lit premises at 221 Laurier East. Inter Pares has a presence in many countries but IMAGE asked Samantha to pick one project which had had a concrete result that they were particularly proud of. She mentioned a 2002 conference in Peru that Inter Pares had helped to organize in the wake of the violent conflicts that had shaken that country for many years. This conference was successful in bringing out of the shadows the true extent of the abuse suffered by women in these years. Partially as a result of these findings, Peru became one of the first Latin American countries to formally address the problem of women's oppression.

Inter Pares also puts its experience to work on Canadian projects. Recently they

were active participants in a movement designed to promote "food sovereignty" in this country. This campaign is part of a larger worldwide movement known as "La Via Campesina". The recent Canadian campaign led to a series of specific policy recommendations aimed at shifting significant resources away from commodity-based, export-focused agriculture and toward a community-based, sustainability-focused agriculture that prioritizes healthy eating for all Canadians.

Inter Pares receives about 80% of its funding through CIDA. Some of this money is specifically allocated to their work in Burma. Much of the rest of their funding comes from direct mail campaigns. Inter Pares began in 1975 and its only office is here in Sandy Hill at 221 Laurier Avenue East. The stated objective is to "support people's struggles for self-determination and their efforts to challenge structural obstacles to achieving social justice."

If you would like to hear more about this work and meet staffers who have been on the ground in Burma, Latin America, India, Africa and the Philippines, you are invited to celebrate the First Day of Summer (Wednesday, June 20) with Inter Pares at 221 Laurier East between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.



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PAYBACK

Thought-provoking doc based on Margaret Atwood's essays
Payback: Debt and The Shadow Side Of Wealth.
(Rated PG)

April 20 to 26

ONCE UPON A TIME IN ANATOLIA



A murderer has trouble leading police to the body in this stunning Turkish drama.
(In Turkish with English subtitles, Rated 14A)

April 20 to 24

Preview!
1 Night Only!
New drama by Sarah Polley, director of *Away From Her.*
(Rated 14A)

TAKE THIS WALTZ
April 25 at 6:50 pm

ByTowne Cinema
325 Rideau St. at Nelson
www.bytowne.ca



Des vents contraires

A man rebuilds his life after his wife goes missing.
(In French with English subtitles, Rated 14A)

April 27 to May 3



The Lady

Deeply emotional biography of Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi of Burma
(some subtitles, Rating To Be Announced.)

May 4 to 17

A Gardener’s Reflections

Moving plants outdoors

Sizing your vegetable garden

Deidre Green

The extraordinary weeks of “summer” in March suddenly made us think that the gardening season had arrived to stay. Alas, the normal cool rainy weather of April squelched the urge to plant and sow. It was hard to resist clearing away all the layers of autumn leaves that covered the early shoots, and I couldn’t help doing a little pruning and lawn-raking. With hopes for a fruitful spring and summer ahead, garden ideas and questions come to mind.

Can houseplants be put outside for the summer? If so, should they be prepared in some way?

Most of our houseplants originate in tropical climes so, genetically, they can’t cope well with our colder temperatures. However, all of them enjoy a summer outdoors and thrive enthusiastically in the enhanced light, warmth and air circulation. Weeks before moving plants out, help them get used to increased light by moving them to south or west facing windows. Resist putting any outside until all danger of frost is over; in our zone this is officially May 24th each year. Nighttime lows must be consistently 10 degrees C or higher to guarantee plant survival. Exceptions to this rule are Azaleas and Oleanders which can tolerate and even flourish with exposure to cold, as long as it doesn’t drop below 0 degrees C.

For the first two weeks outside, place the plants in a spot protected from sunshine, wind and hungry squirrels. I’ve had the unhappy experience of seeing a squirrel gnawing on my potted orange tree, and also devouring a revered ancient Jade plant.

Check the moisture levels daily since the pots will dry out much faster outside. Move them into sunny spots for a few hours per day, over a week or two. They will indicate that the sunlight’s intensity is too great by white sunscald patches that appear on the leaves. If this happens, provide more filtered light for a few days; if the sunscald isn’t too severe, the leaves will recover. Once they are used to the

outdoors, all plants will send forth dramatic growth including profuse flowering. It was wonderful to see my ancient Rosemary shrub burst into bloom last year after previous desultory growth on a windowsill.

When summer ends, all houseplants that have enjoyed an alfresco summer will need to be re-potted in fresh soil. Various insects will have burrowed into the pots and won’t be welcome guests indoors. Increased growth will mean some plants become root-bound so they will appreciate a slightly larger pot. When the plants return indoors, they will have another adjustment to make due to the diminished light conditions. For the two weeks before a possible frost, usually Labour Day in our zone, move them to areas of less intense light and reduce watering too. Azaleas can be left outside well after the first light frosts; the lower temperatures and shorter days in September will help provoke buds for winter blooms.

It is easy to forget houseplants once the gardening season begins. Moving them out so they too can relish summer will result in healthier, more beautiful plants that require no weekly care indoors.

This year I want to produce enough vegetables for a family of four. How big should the plot be? Do some vegetables need less water than others?

The ideal size for a vegetable garden to feed a family of four is 60 square metres. If your garden can’t provide that much space, consider growing some crops vertically. Tomatoes, beans, peppers and cucumbers do very well on trellises and are easier to harvest from these structures. It is also easier to put netting around trellis crops if squirrels are queueing up for a tasty snack.

Stagger the seeding of all vegetables to prevent large crops from ripening at the same time.

Edible crops vary in their needs for water at different stages in their development. Some that do not need frequent watering are beets, broccoli, brussels sprouts, carrots and onions. These plants need only 1 gallon of water per week in their early growth stages.



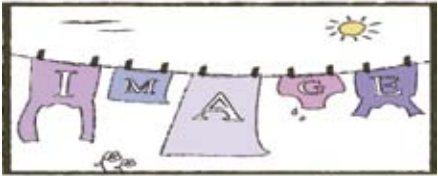
Sandy Hill Community Garden, and beyond...

An early spring means the beds in the Sandy Hill Community Garden near Dutchie’s Hole are nearly ready to till. Chives and other herbs are already putting up aromatic shoots in the garden plots; Johnny Jump Ups are blooming, and the raspberry canes are leafing out. The garden has almost 20 plots, including two dedicated to growing food for the Ottawa Food Bank and one devoted to native plants and a demonstration of water retention techniques. There’s a waiting list for plots, but a few are managed communally and the folks who look after them are always looking for help. To learn more, contact SandyHillCommunityGarden@gmail.com

- Ottawa has 31 community gardens with approximately 1485 garden plots. The wait time for a community garden plot can be up to 2 years.
- A Food Action Plan for Ottawa, which you can look through at www.justfood.ca/foodforall, suggests among other things the importance of: a breastfeeding-friendly Ottawa; healthy school food environments; OC Transpo and food access; healthy corner stores; edible landscapes; hens in urban areas; bees in urban areas; a food policy council for Ottawa.
- In addition to two permanent farmers’ markets year-round, the Ottawa Parkdale Market and the Byward Market, there are 13 other producer-led farmers’ markets in Ottawa, including the Main Market near Sandy Hill. — Paula Kelsall

Leafy vegetables like cabbage, lettuce, and spinach need at least 2 gallons of water per week and even more during dry periods. Tomatoes, celery, cucumbers and squash all need frequent and generous watering, as much as a gallon twice per week especially in their first weeks of growth and once flowers appear.

Rain barrels are on sale now and will sell out fast. Be sure to have one or more in the garden to supply all the thirsty plants. This free natural moisture will help produce the crunchiest and juiciest veggies ever.



BULLETIN BOARD

Wanted
Viscount Alexander School’s Walking School Bus is looking for a new Coordinator. You will be a Volunteer with the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre and will recruit, train, schedule, and support WSB drivers, coordinate participants’ routes and schedules, and support the Walking School Bus Coordinating Committee. A great way to serve the school and the community, get to know your neighbours, and help children arrive at school the safe and active way. A training period with the departing coordinator will be provided. For a complete job description, more information, or to indicate your interest, please contact: Gerald Dragon, Sandy Hill Community Health Centre, 613-789-1500, ext 2526, gdragon@sandyhillchc.on.ca.

Composter
If you are thinking of getting rid of your composter, we have a good home for it. Call Judy at 613 241 6326.

For Sale
A recent model 385.11x06 Kenmore sewing machine for sale. This is a mini-machine, very portable. Little used, \$25. Please call Judy at 613 241 6326.

Go native!
Say good-bye to lawn grubs, fertilizers, sprinklers, pesticides. Fletcher Wildlife Garden Annual Native Plant Sale, Saturday, 2 June 2012, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, (East side of Prince of Wales Drive, just south of the Arboretum) Hundreds of beautiful wildflowers are native to the Ottawa region. We can tell you which ones suit your backyard. Plant a wide variety of native plants to grow a garden that changes from month to month and that creates an ecological balance making herbicides, pesticides, and chemical fertilizers unnecessary. Most of our plants attract butterflies and birds that bring your garden to life. See our demonstration backyard garden, and pick up free plant lists and “how-to” info on gardening for butterflies, attracting birds, building a backyard pond, and more! Information: www.ofnc.ca/fletcher

Ottawa Orchid Society
The Ottawa Orchid Society meets every third Sunday of month between September and May at the Tom Brown Arena, 141 Bayswater Rd (at Scott) at 1:30 p.m. Next meetings: March 18, April 15, May 20, Show on April 21 and 22.

Major minor institution of higher and lower learning prepares for rambunctious blowouts

Charity Wildchilde

Under siege by a militant mob of Sanity Hillers who demanded dunkings in the dark, dank waters of the Runoff canal for numerous nefarious, noxious nitwits and nincompoops, Prez Stonehedge hastily trumpeted his decree for future “winningly rambunctious” events in and around Sanity Hill.

“I listened to those who want a peaceable kingdom and I listened to those who want anything but. And,” he declared with gusto, “voilà, as is my wont when putting two and more together, I have a plot.”

From henceforth all parties and potential parties to parties will be sum-

moned by a pie eyed piper to parade along a predestined route lined with militant mobsters and clamouring cohorts who may cheer or jeer. The institution will shuttle, ferry, or funnel by boat, float, or sag wagon all revellers to our alternative campus, a.k.a. “the plains of pleasure”, south of the well travelled road often taken and beyond the gates of Sanity Hill.

Once deposited in the large stadium thereon the rabble may revel unhindered by law, order, and good sense. Drivers on the well travelled thoroughfare will be warned about a noisome nuisance area ahead as they pass the on and off ramps east and west.

The supreme supporters, Tin Honkers, Putza Patza, Moledaughters, and LeBrats will supply pizzas, pretzels, doughnut holes, poutine and liquid refreshments in

great quantities. Recuperation tents and tarps will be available for those who have run out of consciousness.

“How will it end?” asked the mobsters. “How will it ever end?”

“With a whimper and a bang!” belled the Prez. “Hoses will encourage late leavers to board departure conveyances followed by semi civil crews to cart off debris and bodies.”

“Bliss is it in this time to be alive,” said one of the numerous niggling nincompoops. “This is no stadium for old men,” his sidekick snickered.

The stalwart guardians of Sanity Hill may have been tentatively mollified, but outspokesperson Craganoff is cautiously hopeful that mollification is in order: “We are variously vigilant about decrees from the Prez but we dare to hope the fields of pleasure are out of Sanity Hill’s sight and sound.”

Editor’s note:

While we recognize that Charity Wildchilde’s submissions are best on or before April 1, we have, due to some relevance to real events, decided to publish after the optimum date.

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La Galerie Jean-Claude Bergeron participe pour la première fois aux Portes ouvertes. Venez voir l'intérieur remarquable de la maison de l'ébéniste Alphonse Rochon.

PHOTO : Jean-Claude Bergeron

À la découverte des joyaux du patrimoine d'Ottawa :

Portes ouvertes Ottawa, les 2 et 3 juin 2012



par
Michel Prévost,
archiviste en chef
de l'Université
d'Ottawa

Les Archives de l'Université d'Ottawa participeront, pour la onzième fois, aux Journées Portes ouvertes Ottawa qui se dérouleront durant la fin de semaine du 2 et 3 juin 2012. De nombreux bâtiments et sites seront ouverts de 10 h à 16 h, le samedi et le dimanche. Il faut toutefois vérifier auprès des participants afin de connaître les dates et les heures d'ouverture car certains lieux ne sont pas accessibles pendant les deux jours.

Portes ouvertes Ottawa se veut une fin de semaine consacrée à la découverte de notre patrimoine bâti et naturel. Des immeubles d'importance historique et architecturale ouvriront gratuitement leurs portes au public. Notons que plusieurs d'entre eux ne sont habituellement pas

ouverts ou accessibles gratuitement au public. Nous pensons, entre autres, aux ambassades. De plus, d'autres endroits sont ouverts à longueur d'année, mais n'offrent pas de visites guidées ou ne présentent pas d'expositions.

Les origines des Portes ouvertes

Les Journées Portes ouvertes voient le jour en Europe. Depuis, cet événement connaît un grand succès dans une quarantaine de pays où des millions de personnes y explorent des joyaux du patrimoine historique et architectural. Au Canada, les Portes ouvertes sont organisées pour la première fois à Toronto, en 2000. Depuis, plus d'une cinquantaine de municipalités de l'Ontario y participent à chaque année.

Quelque 550 000 visiteurs à Ottawa

Les Journées Portes ouvertes se tiennent pour la première fois à Ottawa en 2002. Le succès est instantané et se renouvelle à chaque année. En effet des milliers de personnes, soit un total de plus de 550 000, ont visité pendant deux jours les divers lieux accessibles au public. En réalité, il s'agit de l'événement du patrimoine le plus populaire dans la capitale.

Une centaine de lieux à découvrir

Cette année, une centaine de bâtiments dispersés partout en ville seront ouverts. Parmi les points les plus intéressants, notons plusieurs ambassades, dont certaines se trouvent dans la Côte-de-Sable : la Croatie, l'Angola et l'Algérie, ainsi que des sites historiques nationaux situés dans le quartier comme la Maison-Laurier et l'Université d'Ottawa, sans oublier des lieux de culte comme l'église presbytérienne Saint-Paul. Soulignons aussi l'accès à la Maison Diane A. Gagné Services Financiers. Cette magnifique résidence de style néo-Queen Anne, construite en 1905, est située au 5, avenue Blackburn.

Parmi les nouveaux sites, nous vous invitons particulièrement à découvrir la Galerie d'art Jean-Claude-Bergeron, au 150, rue Saint-Patrick, dans la Basse-Ville, qui loge dans l'ancienne maison de l'ébéniste de la cathédrale Notre-Dame, Alphonse Rochon. L'ornementation de la galerie extérieure, de la corniche et la décoration intérieure du bâtiment, construit vers 1886, valent vraiment le détour.

Le Quadrilatère historique de l'Université d'Ottawa

De mon côté, je ferai découvrir le Quadrilatère historique de l'Université d'Ottawa. Je vais offrir les deux jours, en anglais à 10 h 30 et en français à 14 h, des visites guidées pour parler de l'histoire remarquable de mon établissement fondé en 1848 sous le nom de Collège de Bytown. Par ailleurs, je vais explorer avec les participants notre riche patrimoine bâti, notamment le pavillon Tabaret, la Salle académique, l'ancienne École normale et les belles maisons patrimoniales de la rue Séraphin-Marion. Nous ferons aussi des arrêts aux plaques commémoratives et au monument du père Tabaret, le bâtisseur de l'Université canadienne et celui dédié au poète Félix Leclerc, un illustre ancien de l'Université d'Ottawa.

Pour la liste des lieux à découvrir, voir www.ottawa.ca/portesouvertes ou consulter les encarts distribués dans Le Droit et l'Ottawa Citizen. Renseignements : Mme Siobhan Mitchell, tél. : 613-580-9674, courriel : portesouvertes@ottawa.ca.

La promenade de Jane célèbre le patrimoine bâti et naturel, les 5 et 6 mai 2012

Encore cette année, environ 2 000 résidents de la région de la capitale vont envahir nos rues, les 5 et 6 mai, à l'occasion de la cinquième édition de La promenade de Jane. Plus d'une cinquantaine de promenades célébrant la richesse de notre patrimoine seront offertes aux Ottavians et aux Gatinois. Ces visites à pied sont présentées gratuitement afin que toutes les personnes intéressées puissent y participer.

Les origines

Instaurée dans la région en 2007 par le groupe Imagine Ottawa, La promenade de Jane s'avère un projet du Centre for Urban Ecology qui partage les idées de la grande urbaniste et activiste Jane Jacobs (1916-2006) au sujet des villes. En réalité, ces promenades pédestres visent à mieux faire connaître la réalité urbaine en combinant la marche, l'observation, l'histoire, la planification et l'engagement civique. Les visites sont données par des bénévoles qui s'intéressent à leur collectivité et qui ont une histoire intéressante à partager.

Comme le note Mme Louise Renauld-George, une membre très active du Comité organisateur, « La promenade de Jane est d'abord et avant tout une question d'interaction avec les autres et avec son milieu ».

Des visites en français

Plusieurs visites guidées seront données en français, notamment celles de Diego Elizondo, qui fera découvrir le patrimoine francophone d'Orléans, de Jean Yves Peltier, qui explorera le cimetière

patrimonial Notre-Dame d'Ottawa, et de Robert Serré, qui visitera le chemin McArthur et qui donnera des anecdotes au sujet des pionniers de Vanier (Janeville). Le Musée-parc offrira plusieurs tournées afin de faire découvrir le riche passé de Vanier.

De mon côté, je donnerai le samedi après-midi, à titre d'archiviste en chef de l'Université d'Ottawa, une visite guidée des écluses d'Ottawa, site du patrimoine mondial, en mettant l'accent sur le bicentenaire de la guerre de 1812. Nous irons voir trois statues sur le pont Plaza qui rappellent des héros de cette guerre : Laura Secord, Michel de Salaberry et le général Isaac Brock. Le lendemain, j'offrirai comme président de la Société d'histoire de l'Outaouais, une visite guidée du Quartier-du-Moulin, le charme de la Nouvelle-Angleterre. Ce site du patrimoine, lié à l'ancienne usine de pâtes et papiers de la CIP, se trouve dans le secteur Gatineau, à Gatineau.

Il est possible de se procurer l'horaire et la description des promenades en cliquant sur le lien « français » à www.janeswalkottawa.ca. Vous pouvez aussi me joindre à michel.prevast@uottawa.ca, tél. : 613-562-5825.

Le canal Rideau, site du patrimoine mondial, est construit à la suite de la guerre de 1812 dont on célèbre cette année le bicentenaire.

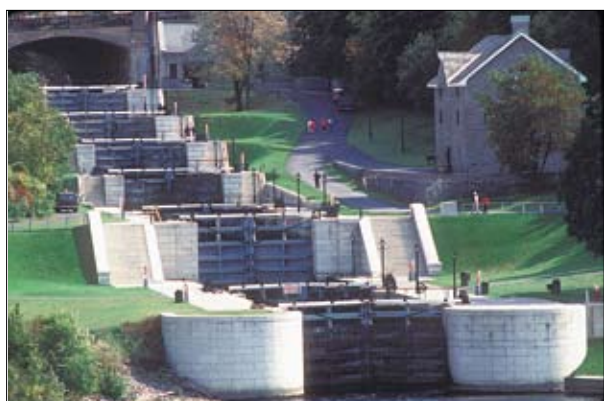


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EcoEquitable at Heartwood House

Old fabric, new life

Susan Gardiner Bourlier

Threadbare? Full of holes? Stained? Torn? Time to throw it away and buy new? Not so fast. That favourite pair of jeans or best-loved T-shirt has been through a lot with you, and though it may appear to have reached the end of its days, it can be given new life.

While gently used clothing and household items can often be donated or reused, fabrics that have outlived their original function tend to end up in the trash; to the tune of 4500 tonnes of textile waste in Ottawa's landfills every year.

One local charity is committed to making a difference. EcoEquitable, located in the Heartwood House at 153 Chapel Street, is working to recycle fabrics while changing the lives of local, disadvantaged workers by providing them with temporary employment and valuable skills training.

The organization has established a program of services that aim to limit the amount of local textile waste that ends up in the landfill. Clean fabrics that can no longer be used for their original pur-

poses can be donated in the drop-box. These fabrics become the raw materials that students use in the "Sowing for Jobs!" classes that EcoEquitable offers to new immigrants and disadvantaged workers. Students are trained to make clothing, do alterations, learn financial literacy, and then apply their skills by offering reasonably priced repair and alteration services to the public.

Recent graduate Rocio Guzman explained that the "...program is not just about sewing, it is about life and learning how things are done in Canada."

Students also make a variety of bags that are both reusable and eco-friendly. EcoEquitable designs and produces a cool line of fashion bags, including some made from vinyl banners donated by the NCC, that are for sale in their boutique, as well as a line of promotional bags.

For those who are already handy with a sewing machine, there is a fabric boutique with all the supplies needed to embark on a creative project. Anyone interested in learning to sew or improving their existing skills can sign up for their public sewing classes.

Founded over ten years ago, more than 150 women and disadvantaged workers have benefitted from the training offered by EcoEquitable. On June 16th, the current intake of 17 students will graduate from the beginner and intermediate sewing classes, having learned valuable skills in making and mending textiles, and with the mentorship and support they need to realize long-term employment opportunities.

Current student, Mahrvas, has been in Canada for only a year, but she is very comfortable explaining how the skills she has learned will help her get a job; through the program she has gained a network of friends and colleagues who have helped her to feel welcome here.

If you have not already discovered EcoEquitable, feel free to stop by to say hello, browse the fabric boutiques or to drop off your clothing and textiles to be fixed, altered, recycled, or repurposed, and feel good about the difference you are making for the environment and in the lives of others.



A lot going on in a small space at EcoEquitable: a volunteer working on the cutting table in the foreground, behind her the office and reception area, to the right of that the production area with a team working on an order. On the back wall are some of the items created by EcoEquitable students and employees.



Susy Carolina Sanchez (front left) and Teresa Craig (front right) used to be students at EcoEquitable. Here they are part of a production team working on a large order of promotional bags.

Dancing TO THE STEP UP PLATE

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May 19 Boy & Girl Pioneers (ages 5-13); 1-3 p.m.

May 20 Friends & Family Sunday @ 10:00 a.m.

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CALENDAR

April - May 2012

Events and shows taking place in or near Sandy Hill

April – Art exhibition by Andrea Spry and Sheila Rorke at the Heartwood Gallery, 153 Chapel St., Mon-Thurs 4–6 p.m., Fri 3–5 p.m. or by appointment, 613 297-5379.

Until May 27–Collecting York Wilson features the work of York Wilson, The Ottawa Art Gallery, Arts Court, 2 Daly Ave., 613 233-8699, www.ottawaartgallery.ca.

Until June 3 – Persistence of Chaos features the work of Pat Durr, The Ottawa Art Gallery, Arts Court, 2 Daly Ave., 613 233-8699, www.ottawaartgallery.ca.

Apr. 17, 24 – Family Storytime (session 2) at the Rideau Branch, Ottawa Public Library, stories, rhymes and songs for children of all ages and a parent or caregiver. / Contes, rimes et chansons pour les enfants de tous âges et un parent ou gardien. Registration / Inscription. 10:30 – 11 a.m., 377 Rideau St., 613 241-6954, www.bibliottawalibrary.ca/en/main/overview.

Apr. 24, May 8, 22 – The Tree Reading series meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, featuring John Barton (Apr. 10), Chris Hutchinson and Darren Bifford (Apr. 24), Catherine Owen and Matthew Tierny (May 8), Robyn Sarah (May 22), Arts Court Library, 2 Daly Ave., doors open at 7:30 p.m., free admission, 613 749-3773, the Tree Reading Series also offers free one-hour poetry workshops, 6:45–7:45 p.m., www.treereadingseries.ca.

Apr. 18 - Heritage Ottawa's lecture series presents "Parliament Hill: The Materials, the Methods, the Legends," a talk by master mason Bobby Watt, Ottawa Public Library Auditorium, 120 Metcalfe St., 7 p.m., free admission, in English, 613 230-8841, <http://heritageottawa.org/en>.

Apr. 19 and May 17 – Rideau Morning Book Club, Rideau Branch, Ottawa Public Library, join in for a discussion of The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows (Apr. 19) and Little Bee (The Other Hand) by Chris Cleave (May 17), 10:15–11:30 a.m., 377 Rideau St., 613 241-6954.

Apr. 24 – Public meeting re proposed noise by-law amendment (bells, horns, shouting). Consideration is being given to an amendment making tenants or lessees of residences generating noise, such as shouting, more accountable for the noise. Comments may also be submitted in writing by May 2, 2012 to Christine.Hartig@ottawa.ca. 6:30–8:30 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall, 110 Laurier W.

Apr. 26 / 26 avril - City of Ottawa open house to discuss the renewal of Rideau Street, Le Patro Community Centre, 40 Cobourg St., 6–8:30 p.m. / La Ville d'Ottawa vous invite à une réunion portes ouvertes au cours de laquelle il sera question de la rénovation de la rue Rideau. Cette réunion aura lieu au Centre communautaire Le Patro, 40, rue Cobourg, de 18 h à 20 h 30.

26 avril - La musique aide-t-elle à apprendre? Regards sur les bienfaits de l'enseignement et de la pratique musicale. Par Jonathan Bolduc, Ph.D. École secondaire publique De La Salle, 501, Old St-Patrick, à 18h30. Réservez en ligne à : www.education.uottawa.ca/45eme. Entrée gratuite.

Apr. 28 – Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ottawa presents an evening of swing and big band music with Mark Chippa, doors open at 7 p.m., \$35, Ottawa Little Theatre, 400 King Edward Ave., www.ottawalittletheatre.com.

May 1 – 19 – Beyond a Joke, a farce by Derek Benfield and directed by Dorothy Gardner, Ottawa Little Theatre, 8 p.m., \$25, \$22 (seniors), \$10 (students), matinee on May 13 at 2 p.m., 400 King Edward Ave., 613 233-8948, www.ottawalittletheatre.com.

May 2 - Royal Canadian Geographic Society Spring Speaker Series presents Dr. Philip Currie's groundbreaking new theory "Dino

Gangs: Packs of tyrannosaurs more cunning and more terrifying than you ever imagined!" Dr. Currie shines the spotlight on these prehistoric poses of carnivorous reptiles at the Canadian Museum of Civilization Theatre, Gatineau, QC. For more information, please contact Marianne Long, RCGS Program Manager at long@rcgs.org.

May 5 – Gigantic Multi-Family Garage Sale, St. Clement Church, corner of Russell and Mann, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., baking and BBQ, rain or shine!

May 5 – Sandy Hill clean up—clean up the area in front of and around your business and home. Cleanup supplies and anti-graffiti kits available from Action Sandy Hill on request. Bring your e-waste to the collection depot in the arena parking lot 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. To offer help or request info, call 613-565-4828 or 613-230-4247, or email info@ash-acsc.ca.

May 5 - Main Farmers' Market season restarts, Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saint Paul University on Main St.

May 7 - Evening Book Club, Rideau Branch, Ottawa Public Library, join in for a discussion of *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* by Haruki Murakami, 7–8:30 p.m., 377 Rideau St., 613 241-6954.

May 7 – Sept. 30 – An Embarrassment of

Riches: The Collection in Focus, an exhibition at the Carleton University Art Gallery, curated by Sandra Dyck and Diana Nemiroff, showing off recent additions to the collection. <http://cuag.carleton.ca/index.php/exhibitions/upcoming>

May 8, 15, 22, 29 - Family Storytime (session 3) at the Rideau Branch, Ottawa Public Library, stories, rhymes and songs for children of all ages and a parent or caregiver. / Contes, rimes et chansons pour les enfants de tous âges et un parent ou gardien. Registration / Inscription. 10:30 – 11 a.m., 377 Rideau St., 613 241-6954, www.bibliottawalibrary.ca/en/main/overview.

May 10 – 12 – SubDevision: A Theatrical Event at St. Paul's Eastern United Church, including a party with DJ and dancing in the main space and site-specific performances by eight theatre companies in and around the church, 90 Daly Ave., <http://skeletonkeytheatre.wordpress.com>.

May 12 - Step up to the plate concert/dance at St. Joseph's Parish Hall, at Wilbrod and Cumberland. With Fred Ducharme & Ninth Line. Tickets \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. From 8 p.m. to midnight. All proceeds to St Joe's Supper Table. Contact: Dave Ro or Melissa Sabourin at 613 233-4095.

May 17 - Action Sandy Hill Annual General Meeting. All Sandy Hill residents welcome. Sandy Hill Community Centre, 250 Somerset St. E., doors open 6:30.

May 28 - Action Sandy Hill meets the last Monday of the month, 7 p.m., Sandy Hill Community Centre, 250 Somerset St. E.

June 2 - Bettye Hyde Cooperative Nursery School's Sandy Hill Spring Fair, corner of Blackburn and Laurier. Community arts and crafts for sale, live music, alumni café, face painting, bake sale, coffee and pastries, BBQ, and more. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine, call 613 236-3108.

June 2-3 – Doors Open Ottawa unlocks over 100 of the area's most architecturally interesting and historically significant buildings, many of which are not normally open to the public. www.doorsopenontario.on.ca/Events

June 5 – 23 – Dangerous Liaisons, a drama by Christopher Hampton and directed by Geoff Gruson, Ottawa Little Theatre, 8 p.m., \$25, \$22 (seniors), \$10 (students), matinee on June 17 at 2 p.m., 400 King Edward Ave., 613 233-8948, www.ottawalittletheatre.com.

June 8 – 9 - IODE Laurentian Chapter 51st House and Garden Tour, a historical house tour in Sandy Hill. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nine Open Houses, including the oldest house in Sandy Hill. Funds raised will support Nelson House in the fight to end violence against women and a range of other good causes. Tickets are \$30. Call 613 745-0631.

June 16 – 26 – The Ottawa Fringe Festival is 11 days of innovative and exploratory theatre in 15 venues close to Sandy Hill, including Arts Court and several spaces on the University of Ottawa campus, www.ottawafringe.com.



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Window on the Rideau

Birds in love

Robin Harlick

This year, with the early arrival of spring, the silly season has been underway for a good month or more. At least “silly season” is what I call it when I see our feathered friends acting in ways we least expect, like the crazy Mallard Duck pairs that wander through the parks, even onto the roads looking for the perfect place to set up home, or a group of Blue Jays bobbing up and down and fluffing their feathers in an effort to attract the sweet young thing in their midst.

As with many wild animals, the onset of warmer temperatures and longer days is the time for the avian world to concentrate on bringing the next generation into being. And birds are no different from us humans. Their procreation activities go through the same stages of courtship, home making, and raising the young.

Some bird species, like the American Goldfinch, congregate in large flocks over the winter, but once the warm weather sets in, they disperse into mating pairs. At the same time the male goldfinch changes his drab winter garb into his brilliant yellow plumage with only one purpose in mind, attracting a willing mate. Once sighted, the chase begins, with one or more males flying after the female, while she, ever the coy damsel, tries to evade in a zigzag flight. But she isn't quite so

coy. Although the male will tend to stick to one female during the breeding season, the female will sometimes leave him with the kids to raise and go off to find another partner and start another brood.

While many bird species are monogamous for a period of time, some like the Canada Goose will mate for life. They have been known to put their lives in danger in order to protect their mate and will stand on guard over an injured mate until it recovers or dies. Nothing is more sorrowful than the plaintive cries of a Canada Goose who has lost its mate. Even if they are lifetime partners, the pair still goes through a floating courtship dance of dipping their long necks into the water several times before the male mounts the female almost drowning her. Once their mission is accomplished, there is celebratory wing flapping, tail wagging and neck stretching by both partners.

The Ruby-throated Hummingbird, however, is at the far end of the scale of dead-beat dad. Solitary birds, they only come together to mate. The bright iridescent red-throated males are the first to arrive in the spring. They search and stake out a good territory with ready access to food, like a feeder, and start to defend it. When the much drabber females arrive a week or so later, the courtship frenzy begins. The male will fly 15 metres or more straight up and then descend at breakneck speed pulling up at the last minute and back into



Some species of birds like the Canada Goose will mate for life.

another high ascent, forming a u-shaped pattern. This is accompanied by loud chittering and wing vibrations. The female hummingbird will choose the male with the most flamboyant dance or the best territory. Once the deed is done, the male takes off to mate with other females, leaving his hapless partner to build her tiny nest and bring up her brood on her own.

Another key behaviour of courtship is song. We are all very familiar with the diverse and lyrical bird songs that serenade us in the spring and early summer, especially in the mornings and evenings. From the wistful cheep of the chickadee to the spiralling scales of the hermit thrush or the robust song of a robin, they have two main purposes: to attract the perfect mate and demark their territory. Some of these songs can be highly complex with

intricate phrasing. For example, the male American Robin's song has 6-20 simple whistled “carolling” phrases in his repertoire and 75-100 complex high pitch “his-selly” phrases. And the more complex a male bird's song, the more attractive he is, for apparently prospective mates view it as a sign of intelligence. So all you shower singers, please take note.

When you are out of doors this spring watch the birds around you and see if you can detect the songs and dances of birds in love.

As R.J.Harlick, Robin writes the popular Meg Harris mystery series. The latest, A Green Place for Dying, has just been released and is available in stores and libraries near you and as an e-book on Kobo, Kindle and other e-stores.

Give wild mothers a break

Donna DuBreuil



Thousands of animals like these baby squirrels are orphaned each year when people trap and relocate a nursing wildlife mother, block her access to an attic, or remove her babies. If you are experiencing a wildlife invasion, the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre (www.wildlifeinfo.ca) appeals to you to contact them before taking an action that may leave you with a significant problem.

The on-again, off-again temperatures, high winds, and trees that are being cut down due to the emerald ash borer infestation mean that a lot of wildlife is having a very hard time this year.

Those leaf nests or dreys that squirrels normally occupy high up in trees offer little protection against either the elements or predators. It explains why females, come spring, are so desperate to get into an eave or attic or, for a raccoon mother to choose a chimney. Skunks and groundhogs will select holes under steps or sheds because they too need to find a safe spot for their young when they are most vulnerable.

The good news is that this is a temporary situation. The safest and most humane option during the birthing season is to give a brief grace period until the babies are weaned and coming out with mother. The family will then move to a natural area and you can go about doing the necessary animal-proofing.

It is also in a homeowner's best interest to resist taking wildlife problems into your own hands as abandoned hungry babies, in inaccessible areas in an attic, can

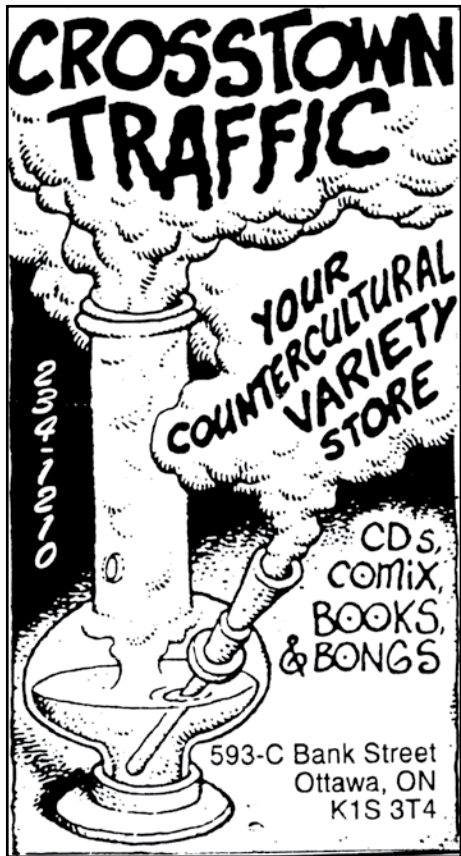
fall between walls, requiring expensive drywall removal. Or, if they are under steps, immobile babies will die and create bad and long-lasting smells.

You can be sure that, if you have an adult wild animal on your property at this time of the year, there are babies nearby. So, never risk barricading an animal as they can cause damage in trying to get back to their young or in trying to escape. Do not smoke an animal out of a chimney. Babies would not be able to escape and you could cause a chimney fire.

Wildlife removal companies that say they offer a humane service can give you no guarantee they won't end up creating orphans and, with very limited help available for orphaned wildlife, it is very unwise to take this risk. It is also illegal, under the Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, to relocate any wild animal beyond one kilometre from where it was found, making trapping quite pointless.

Be smart—research all your options before taking any action. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure when it comes to wildlife concerns. Take advantage of the experienced advice at www.wildlifeinfo.ca and keep this site handy for all your wildlife questions throughout the year.

You'll be glad you did.



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