

DECEMBER 2011 - JANUARY 2012

DÉCEMBRE 2011 / JANVIER 2012



Alternative economy thrives at November sales



photos Hélène Lacelle



The weekend of November 18-19 was jam-packed for Sandy Hill shoppers ... and volunteers. Jamaican High Commissioner Sheila Sealy Monteith and her daughter Mara found excellent gift baskets at the All Saints Bazaar. Patricia Rodi's wares at the fabulous One & Only craft sale charmed Cathy McConkey and Anneke Jansen Van Doorn Campbell, while happy but weary chef Peter Evanchuk and Sandy Hill elves Marc, François and Dallas kept the fantastic, and free, food coming. Full report on the craft sale on page 15, and Yvonne van Alphen's annual Sandy Hill Christmas shopping feature, celebrating our neighbourhood buyers and storefronts, is on page 10.

Action Sandy Hill discovers a good model for town-gown collaboration in London

Christopher Collmorgen

Christopher Collmorgen and Sam Almsaddi of Action Sandy Hill recently accompanied Sergeant Matt Skof and Officer Ryan Pierce of Ottawa Police Services to London, Ontario, to see how that municipality is managing the issues that typically plague near-campus neighbourhoods, namely garbage, noise, parking and poor property standards.

Although Ottawa and London differ, there are many elements of the London model that merit further study and would benefit not only Sandy Hill but all of Ottawa's near-campus neighbourhoods that serve the universities, Ottawa, Carleton, St. Paul, and the colleges, Algonquin and la Cité Collégiale.

In the 1980s, tension between the London community and the University of Western Ontario came to a head over a series of off-campus incidents involving students. The UWO administration and the student body agreed that a student code of conduct was required. It encouraged students to "set for themselves the highest standards of behaviour off-campus, including behaviour conducive to the peaceful and safe enjoyment of housing by both students and neighbours" and states that "the University does not condone behaviour that infringes upon the rights of the University's neighbours or that brings the University's good name into disrepute."

Coupled with the introduction of the code was the establishment of an Off-Campus Housing Services (OCHS) office that serves both UWO and Fanshawe College. The office is staffed with a full-time housing coordinator, 18 student advisors, and support staff. The office delivers many services including:

- Managing the off campus housing listings (a preferred status is granted to units that are licensed); listing fees cover the cost of the extra police officer that exclusively patrols the near-campus neighbourhoods for ten weekends out of the year;
- Training 18 student volunteers for peer-to-peer education and mediation and the delivery of 18,000 info kits to all residents of near-campus neighbourhoods during Welcome Week, complete with schedule of activities, expectations of student behaviour, garbage and bylaw information, and a note to call the OCHS in the event of problems;
- Receiving and managing calls from the students and residents living in near-campus neighbourhoods concerning problems with roommates, landlords, property maintenance, noise and garbage;
- Sending monthly "Living Off-Campus" e-newsletters to all students;
- Setting up dumpsters at six locations around UWO and Fanshawe at the end of each school year to collect excess household waste, and coordinating a used-furniture exchange;

London visit — continued on page 6



Bus route changes under fire

Jan Meldrum

It was standing room only on November 8 at the Strathcona Heights meeting room where a crowd of unhappy people gathered to meet Councillor Fleury and a representative of OC Transpo. The people were angry and frustrated about the drastic changes on September 4 to the number 16 bus route and the elimination of route number 316. As a result of these changes there is now no bus access to Rideau Street from most of Sandy Hill and no bus along Main/Smyth to the hospital.

Everyone who wanted to speak was given a chance and there were many of the approximately 70 people who had much to say. Some "venting" was done, showing the high level of frustration caused by the changes and cancellation.

The main concern was the lack of access to Rideau Street. The 16 which formerly arrived on Rideau Street at the Rideau Centre now travels via the Mackenzie King Bridge. The 316 used to take riders

to eastern Rideau Street via Chapel Street giving access to the Sandy Hill Health Centre, Rideau Library, supermarkets and other stores. Even the number 5 route along Laurier now takes the Mackenzie King Bridge instead of Rideau Street.

OC Transpo's travel planner tells people who want to go to Rideau Street or the ByWard Market area to take the 16 to Mackenzie King Bridge and then walk through the Rideau Centre. It was emphasized by many in the crowd that, for people with limited mobility and/or encumbered with parcels or strollers and toddlers, walking through the Centre was not possible. Those in wheelchairs or with walkers have sometimes found the elevator broken so they cannot proceed.

OC Transpo's original description of the changes said that route 316 would be "combined with route 16." A man at the meeting called this idea of combination "a joke" since the routes were only parallel for a few blocks and the 316 went to a completely different section of Rideau Street.

Bus woes — continued on page 7

IMAGE

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Fondé en 1972 sous la direction de Diane Wood

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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.

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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.

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IMAGE est rédigé, publié et distribué grâce au dévouement et au talent de nombreux bénévoles, mais aussi avec l'appui des annonceurs. Soutenez les commerces locaux, et tout particulièrement ceux qui font de la publicité dans IMAGE ou chez qui vous pouvez le trouver.

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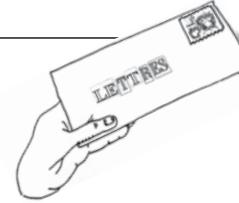
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*Sandy Hill's
place
in the Market*

*Côte-de-Sable
se retrouve
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Our readers write ...



Courrier des lecteurs

our most vulnerable and they are being forced to wait additional time, often in the cold or rain, as bus after bus passes them by. And that does not include the time waiting for buses that do not show up at all.

But these are not the only problems with the cutbacks in our public transit system. The reduction in funding to public transit in Ottawa shows the lack of commitment of our councillors to addressing climate change, achieving a sustainable city, reducing air pollution, providing services that serve the less advantaged and reducing congestion on our roads. The cut-backs will cause increased environmental degradation and health costs, a large negative economic impact as commutes take longer causing an insatiable and costly demand for more roads. Thus, the savings are false savings.

I encourage the councillors to reverse their decision about the reduction in service and routes and restore the funds that were cut as well as implement the small increase in funding that is proposed in the draft budget. I also suggest that they cancel the proposed fare increase. We all benefit from a transit system that is comfortable as well as easy and convenient to use.

Diane Beckett
Chapel St.

Disastrous transit cuts

The cuts to public transit have been disastrous. Seniors who located their accommodation close to public transit routes have been stranded in their homes because the routes they depended on were cancelled or the hours significantly reduced. The routes to schools and universities have been cancelled and reduced showing our students that public transit isn't taken seriously and that their time is not valued. Families who located near bus routes that enabled them to get to work, daycare and school have had their lives upended. Employees have been forced to quit their jobs because public transit makes it too difficult to get them to and from work.

The buses I take now are full, requiring people to stand when previously everyone had a seat. Before you say that standing on a bus is not unreasonable, ask yourself, when was the last time that you had to stand while travelling by car? And what about the sick, handicapped and seniors who cannot stand? Priority seating is not sufficient when the buses are so crowded. In addition, the buses are so full that they routinely cannot pick up parents pushing strollers or people with walkers or wheelchairs. These people are already among

From Centre 454

Centre 454 would like to update you on our activities, the progress around our move, and to wish you a wonderful holiday season.

Over the past eight months, Centre 454 has partnered with the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa and the renewed parish at St. Alban's to prepare for the return of Centre 454 to St. Alban's Church. We have conducted a review of the building and retrofit needs for the church basement and hired an architect firm, with heritage expertise, and a construction manager.

We have also been very active in the community. Since the announcement of our move in February we have participated in three community meetings to discuss the move. In May, and October, a group from the Centre volunteered in Sandy Hill on behalf of the Clean the Capital campaign. In mid-July we invited Sandy Hill residents and parishioners of St. Alban's to an open house to see our new space and learn about the Centre. And in September we joined Action Sandy Hill

at the annual Bar-B-Q at the Sandy Hill Community Centre on Somerset East. As we move forward we continue to actively participate in Councillor Fleury's community working group and to respond to any inquiries regarding our move.

Our original plan was to move in January, 2012, but, like most renovation projects, construction and retrofit is taking longer than expected. Tremendous progress has been made and we are working with great professionals and volunteers to prepare a welcoming, safe and inclusive facility. The plan now is to have Centre 454 settled in at St. Alban's by late spring, 2012.

This year we will be unable to celebrate the festive season as your neighbour at St. Alban's. To our future neighbours, we wish you and yours a happy, and peaceful season filled with hope, love and charity. Everyone at Centre 454 looks forward to returning home to St. Alban's next year. Should anyone wish further information on Centre 454, please feel free to contact us at 613-688-3322 or centre454@ottawa.anglican.ca

Noise pollution

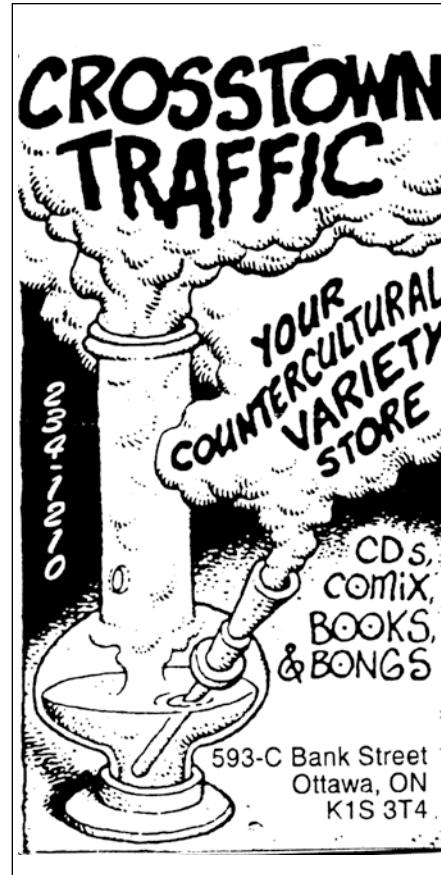
City officials are making a mistake when it comes to measuring the degree of nuisance with respect to noise pollution. Decibels are useful for calculating the damage that can be done to the ears, but that is all.

Just think of the monotonous rumbling of an ordinary conversation occasionally jerked by all kinds of sudden raisings of the voice or unpleasant laughs. When a person has no control over them in his or her own home or yard, it is hell.

Police tell complainants that their neighbours have the right to put a radio in an open window. Surely one also has the right *not* to have music or noise in his apartment. It is as if some people have more rights than others in a country where citizens are supposed to be equal.

When it comes to noise-pollution control, we are as far behind as people were when they were throwing the contents of chamber-pots out the window. Today, some people are still throwing their "noisy sewer materials" out the windows, noise polluting their neighbours.

L. Lavoie
Sweetland Ave.





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The people around us

Larry Newman

Roger Louttit, accent on the first syllable, is 25 years old and defends a panhandling station near the side entrance to the Rideau Street Loblaws. He's well suited to defence by way of size.

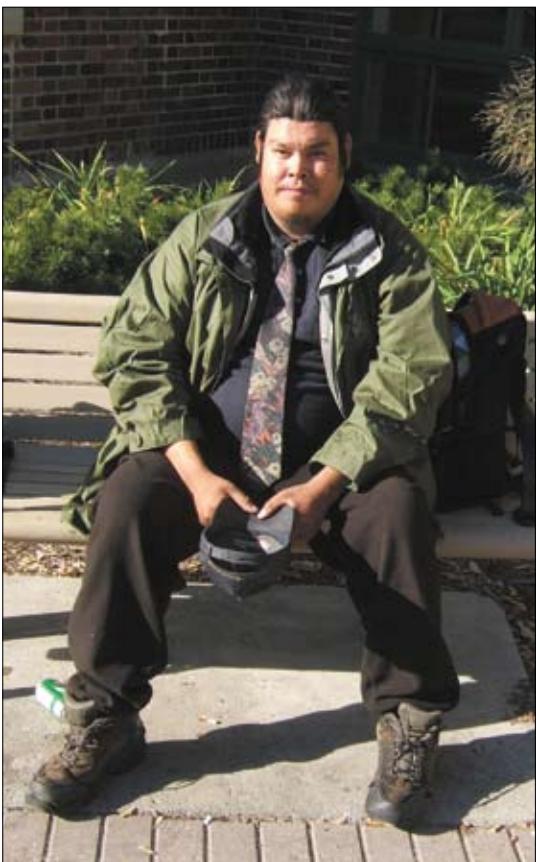
I pass him most days as I come and go on Rideau Street. Sometimes I drop something in his hat, usually it's on the ground and he's playing his guitar; once when he was trying out a harmonica.

My curiosity got the best of me one day and I told him I wanted to do an interview for IMAGE. He looked up at me for a few seconds. "Is it worth 5 dollars?"

I asked him if the following morning would be better for him and he volunteered that he started drinking early so it didn't make a difference whether we met then or now. I opted for then because it would give me time to get a camera and recorder. He asked me if I had a card; since I didn't I said that I would bring a copy of IMAGE so he might know I was legitimate.

Coincidentally, we met about noon the next day as I was coming from Loblaws. "Is it worth \$7.75?" Roger asked. Odd number that, but later I found out why. We sat together on the bench in front of the library and I consulted my list of questions.

Roger Louttit, 25, nearly 26 years old, seems to have more than 25 years etched in his face. Born in James Bay, Roger is a veteran panhandler. His station on Rideau Street has two advantages, good traffic to and from Loblaws and it's the sunny side of the street. The ground or concrete is cold much of the time but Roger sits on his backpack while he "pans". "I come from the North so the cold doesn't bother me." He adapts to it. Today, he is wear-



Roger Louttit, Rideau Street Photo L. Newman

panhandles near here too - in the Metro/LCBO parking lot.

Roger learned his panhandling skills from his mother who, tragically, was found drowned in the Rideau River last year. "No foul play," the police said. He has five other siblings. There is Peter plus another brother and three sisters, all living in Ottawa.

Roger gets some help from social services at the Wabano Centre in Vanier, and the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre counsellor has arranged to put him on the waiting list (6 to 12 months) for an apartment from Ottawa Community Housing.

Roger says that he doesn't mind being homeless. It's not a bad life. "I adapt."

Meantime, he can be found at the Shepherds of Good Hope or on his backpack outside Loblaws on Rideau Street.

During our talk, I showed him a copy of IMAGE but I noticed after he left that it was lying on the bench, a consequence I told myself, of living with the limits of a backpack.

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ing one of his neckties, something that I noticed for the first time yesterday.

One of the next things that I learned about Roger is that he does not hesitate to talk about his drinking or parts of his life. Roger's "grandfather's grandfather was a Scottish citizen from James Bay," hence his surname but Roger says, "I'm mostly Cree."

He came to Ottawa from the Attawapiskat Reserve on the invitation of his grandparents who lived here. Roger got much of his education on the street. He was a ward of the Children's Aid Society initially, before he got his first taste of alcohol. At first it was only on the weekends but that escalated until he needed it every day. "I have problems - but I don't talk about them."

Roger drinks wine - \$7.75 wine. He has friends who also drink wine. One of them is Peter, Roger's young brother who



One concern raised by 466-468 Nelson's new look is the top floor mezzanine.

Reconstruction problems on Nelson

Karen Bays

In principle, few can argue that intensification could produce benefits for our community. Increasing density should mean savings in tax dollars, more eyes on the street, lively and vibrant neighbourhoods, and environmental benefits as people abandon cars and walk and cycle more. Unfortunately, what looks good in theory does not always play out well in reality. Many Sandy Hill residents are finding more garbage, more noise, and more parking issues a result of increased density in the neighbourhood and concerns are raised every time construction starts on a new block.

One example of this is the reconstruction at 466-468 Nelson Street which will more than double the number of residents previously at that location. Neighbours acknowledge that the permit issued earlier this year for four units and three storeys is within the zoning regulations and, while they may not like it, they have accepted that. However, some area residents recently received notice that there is now an application for a minor variance to the existing permit requesting permission for six units – not four. Neighbours are also concerned that what appears to be a fourth storey is actually regarded as a mezzanine by the City because 40% of the floor area is open to the storey below. But as one resident points out, "The overall effect is an oversized building which overshadows the scale of houses around it."

Another neighbour is concerned about the amount of outdoor living space on balconies. "If six to eight people live in one unit and each one has two friends over, that becomes quite a crowd. Multiply that by several units and we will not get any sleep."

It was also reported by at least two area residents that it appears the owner has moved forward with adding a fifth additional unit *before* approval has been given to do so by the Committee of Adjustment. One person is discouraged about the whole process referring to it as a "done deal." She believes it is unlikely the City would have illegal components demolished should the hearing decision not be in favour of the owner.

Another added, "Proceeding with an additional unit without approval will serve as a dangerous precedent for future development in the neighbourhood." He adds, "If the Committee approves the two additional units, this will effectively render zoning by-laws as mere guidelines for developers."

Billy Triantafilos, who is managing his family's properties on Nelson and overseeing the reconstruction at 466-468 Nelson, explained that he has a building permit which allows for four units to be created out of the previous two-unit building. This permit also includes a mezzanine above the third floor. Although this structure looks like a fourth floor to those who pass by, Mr. Triantafilos points out that it is not a complete floor and is allowed under the current zoning regulations and complies with height requirements.

He explained that he has now applied for an Application for minor variance (hearing December 7) to move from 4 to 6 units. He stated, "This is not to increase the number of bedrooms and overall density but rather to create smaller units so the tenants are easier to manage and I can also live on the premises." He pointed out that the previous building (before this summer's reconstruction began) was two units housing five people each. The expansion to four units would have raised the number of residents from ten to 21. The increase of two units would also maintain the number of residents at 21 including space for him. Mr. Triantafilos notes, "I want to live on site so I can better manage our properties and insure tenants respect noise, garbage and parking regulations and be part of the community."

But where does our municipal councilor stand on the Nelson Street development? Because the Committee of Adjustment is a judicial process, Mathieu Fleury can not get involved with the Nelson Street application for variance. However, he has definite opinions about individuals and groups who move beyond the zoning and building regulations. "The City has proper mechanisms in place and every rule should be followed," says Mr. Fleury.

Councillor Fleury stated that with the increase in density often comes an increase in problems like noise, parking, and garbage. One cause of noise problems, he acknowledged, is the lack of common living areas; when houses and units are converted for rental, activities spill over on to the street or outside spaces. Changes in this year's municipal budget will allow longer hours for bylaw enforcement officers from a 2:00 a.m. finish time to 3:00 a.m. During peak periods (such as frosh week) this will be increased to 4:00 a.m. Bylaw officers who work weekends and evenings to address parking issues are being directed to deal with early garbage and other related bylaw infractions. He added that efforts are being made to change the existing noise bylaw to make it more effective.

Our Councillor pointed out that community action is very important. "When the City is aware of problems, it should act accordingly. But, we need citizens to support us by asking questions or pointing out concerns." He noted that because of the work of ASH board members Claire MacDonald and Christopher Collmorgen and others addressing issues facing our changing neighbourhood, he has been able to help move things forward.

It is clear that Sandy Hill is changing. Existing zoning requirements are being challenged. The City is having to pour in more resources to preserve the quality of living. Community members are being encouraged to help insure regulations and by-laws are respected. Hopefully, we will find a way to balance the needs of all as we grow and experience this evolution.

On the drawing board...



Photo Bill Blackstone

The house at 470 Wilbrod, currently serving as Embassy of Viet Nam, has been acquired by the Cordon Bleu and will be redeveloped into new administrative offices and classrooms. The exterior and garage will be retained, according to architect Barry Padolsky's drawings. The house is immediately north of the Cordon Bleu and a footpath will link the two structures.



Photo Bill Blackstone

The green space at the corner of Daly and Waller, where the police station was demolished more than a decade ago, may be the salvation of the Arts Court renovation project. The City is seeking \$9 million from the federal government for the proposed renovation and is also considering a 20-storey development at this corner.



Photo Bill Blackstone

The deal with driveways

Christopher Collmorgen

Did you know there are City bylaws that govern the installation and widening of driveways? In light of the current intensification in Sandy Hill, it is useful to be aware of bylaw 2003-447 that regulates the use of private approaches. A private approach refers to the driveway portion that is constructed on the City right-of-way. For most properties in Sandy Hill, the right of way includes the first 3-4 meters in from the sidewalk.

What does the bylaw say?

- No person shall construct, relocate, alter, or close a private approach without first obtaining a permit from the City of Ottawa;
- A private approach must be a minimum of 2.4 metres wide and a maximum of 9.0 metres and in no case shall the width exceed 50 per cent of the frontage on which the approach is located;
- The maintenance and upkeep of a private approach, including any curbs and headwalls is the responsibility of the abutting property owner;
- Permits will not be issued for private approaches in order to provide access to a parking space which is contrary to any City bylaw; and
- The grade of any private approach shall not exceed six per cent.

When / what kind of permit is required?

A Private Approach Permit is required for new driveways, for the closure of a driveway, and for a driveway widening. Private Approach Permit applications are available at City of Ottawa Client Service Centres. The permit ensures that the construction is in compliance with all bylaws.

A Building Permit is not required to widen a driveway; however, zoning regulations and/or site plan control may impose restrictions on the width and location of a driveway within the private property. The City encourages property owners to obtain this information from the Development Information Officer for Sandy Hill. It also encourages owners to review the deed of transfer of their property as it may include restrictions that will also apply, particularly if the home is part of a cooperative development, a condominium development or a multi-residential project.

What if a driveway is installed or widened without a Private Approach Permit?

When an unauthorized driveway is being constructed, the City may take action to stop the work or, if it is already completed, it may compel the owner of the property to remove it and reinstate the land to the condition it was in before it was constructed. In addition, anyone who contravenes any of the provisions of this bylaw is guilty of an offence and on conviction is liable to a fine.

Have questions about your own or someone else's driveway? Contact Bylaw Administrator Linda.Uhryniuk@ottawa.ca.

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British town seeks help restoring grave of Sandy Hill airman

Searching for Brophy relatives in Canada

Sandy Hill residents may wish to help a British town restore the graves of two First World War airmen from Ottawa — including one who grew up on Chapel Street.

The kind-hearted citizens of Gainsborough, England, have been caring for the grave markers of the two Canadians for nearly a century since the men were killed during the 1914-18 war.

But the headstones of Sandy Hill native Lieut. John Bernard "Don" Brophy and Lieut. James Arthur Menzies of Centretown — along with the monuments marking the resting places of four other Allied soldiers from the war — now require more substantial repairs costing about \$4,800 in total.

The Samaritans from Gainsborough recently reached out to Canada through an *Ottawa Citizen* article in hopes of tracking down relatives of Brophy and Menzies to gain permission for the gravesite improvements.

Relatives of Menzies have been located and they've offered to assist in the project.

Brophy, who was born in 1893, died in a flying accident on Christmas Eve 1916, according to the recent *Citizen* article, written by reporter Matthew Pearson.

Brophy attended St. Patrick's School and the future Lisgar Collegiate Institute before heading off to war, and apparently excelled



Lieut. John Bernard "Don" Brophy

in sports. His father, a widower, was a federal public servant with two other children — daughters named Rita and Fawnie.

Brophy is also known to have kept a diary of his war service, which can be found at: www.cmp-cpm.forces.gc.ca/dhh-dhp/his/docs/Pebbles.pdf

Brophy is buried at the Gainsborough Cemetery next to Menzies, who was killed in 1917.

Those wishing to donate to the gravesite repairs or have information about the Brophy family can e-mail Matthew Pearson at the *Ottawa Citizen*: mpearson@ottawacitizen.com.

London visit — from page 1

• In conjunction with local and campus police, delivering mandatory training and information sessions in January to all first-year students living in residence about living off campus including landlord and tenant rights and responsibilities, choosing a house and roommates, avoiding conflicts with neighbours, bylaw information, the role of OCHS, etc.

• Attending meetings of the Town and Gown Committee.

The Town and Gown Committee serves as a forum for resolving issues involving UWO, Fanshawe College, the City and the neighbouring communities and recommends responses. The Committee includes representatives from the City, administration and student body from UWO and Fanshawe, ward councillors and community associations, as well as representation from London police and fire services, planning, housing mediation, and the City's community housing advisory committee.

The City of London has structured its bylaws in such a manner that they can be more easily enforced when education alone proves insufficient. Noise, illegal parking and the use of indoor furniture outdoors were explicitly cited as having

been greatly reduced. The City contributes 40% of the total operating budget of the OCHS. It has also committed resources to the Town and Gown Committee. Finally, in an effort to better manage the standards of rental properties, the city implemented licensing for all four-plex or smaller rental properties in London.

A drive around Broughdale, the "Sandy Hill" of UWO, revealed a clean, well-kept neighbourhood with little garbage, no indoor furniture on front porches or on lawns, and generally well-maintained properties. Of course there were problem addresses but they were few and far between and the only discernible difference between owner-occupied and student-occupied dwellings was the use of flags as curtains and the bicycles locked up to railings. The community association representative, bylaw services and university representatives have all commented that complaints and problems are down "significantly" since the measures implemented over the past twenty years have been in effect.

So what can we take away from London's experience?

• That even though the issues we face in Sandy Hill are complex and deeply rooted, if the right stakeholders come together, we can solve many of them. In other words, we need a Town and Gown Committee

• That education on what it means to be a good neighbour — the rights and responsibilities of urban living — is everyone's duty, whether it takes the form of a community relations office at the University, improved enforcement of bylaws or more street-level community-led activities, and

• That addressing the issues and seeing results in Sandy Hill will take time and requires commitment from all stakeholders.

Action Sandy Hill has built good working relationships with our ward councillor, the University of Ottawa, Ottawa Police Services and Bylaw Services to address our concerns. If you are interested in helping out or just want to know more, please visit us at www.ash-acs.ca/ or e-mail us at info@ash-acs.ca. Together we can improve the overall quality of life in our neighbourhood.

Christopher Collmorgen is president of Action Sandy Hill

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**Bus woes** — from page 1

A mother with young children said that, with the loss of the 316, she and others in the area now had no bus to get their children to daycare.

The cut at the south end of the 16 route was also upsetting to many. Instead of one bus to the General Hospital, a trip from south Sandy Hill now takes three buses — 16 to Lees, a transitway bus to Hurdman and then the 106. This three-bus trip is almost impossible for those with impaired mobility for any reason; there is a large population of seniors and disabled in the Strathcona Heights area. Brenda, of Anderson's Hair Salon, said that customers from the Main Street area, who formerly took the 16 to shops on Mann Avenue, were now having difficulty getting there.

There are many people in Sandy Hill who do not have cars. These people are dependent on bus service and are affected severely by service cuts.

During the meeting Councillor Fleury explained that the objective was to gather the community's concerns so that some solution to the problems could be worked out with OC Transpo.

Although there have been no further meetings or announcements, M. Fleury recently told IMAGE that he met with OC Transpo and proposed links from the Strathcona Heights area to Rideau Street at Chapel and also to the General Hospital

a few times a day in off peak periods. OC Transpo has confirmed to the Councillor that such routes, twice a day in each direction, will begin in January, to be reviewed again for the April scheduling. The details have not yet been worked out but it could be called a "16 special" route or perhaps another number. The proposed two-a-day trips will, no doubt, not satisfy everyone; M. Fleury said that he would like to see more trips a day.

The Councillor also stated that the 16 route will not be removed from the Mackenzie King Bridge because of planned construction on Rideau in 2012/2013 and later for the LRT.

We must consider what caused these service cuts in the first place. It all boils down to money — or lack of it. City Council told OC Transpo to cut 20 million dollars from annual costs. Of course that meant cuts in service. In an e-mail Mayor Watson said that OC Transpo was "losing money each year and hammering riders with 7.5% annual fare increases." The transit fare increase is now 2.5% and "the entire service is now more sustainable for Ottawa taxpayers in the long run."

It's a balance of service and costs. So, taxpayers, in striking this balance, we need to keep in mind that when a service is cut, those most dependent on the service (probably our most vulnerable citizens) are more severely affected than others.

*Seasonal Word Sonnets
by Seymour Mayne***Winter Squall**

The
snow
mountains
of
the
moon
fell
suddenly
upon
us
with
no
satellite
warning.

Flight (for Nora Molina)

A
flutter
of
wings
and
the
feathers
of
snow
fill
the
eyes
with
flight.

**Fate of poles still up in the air**

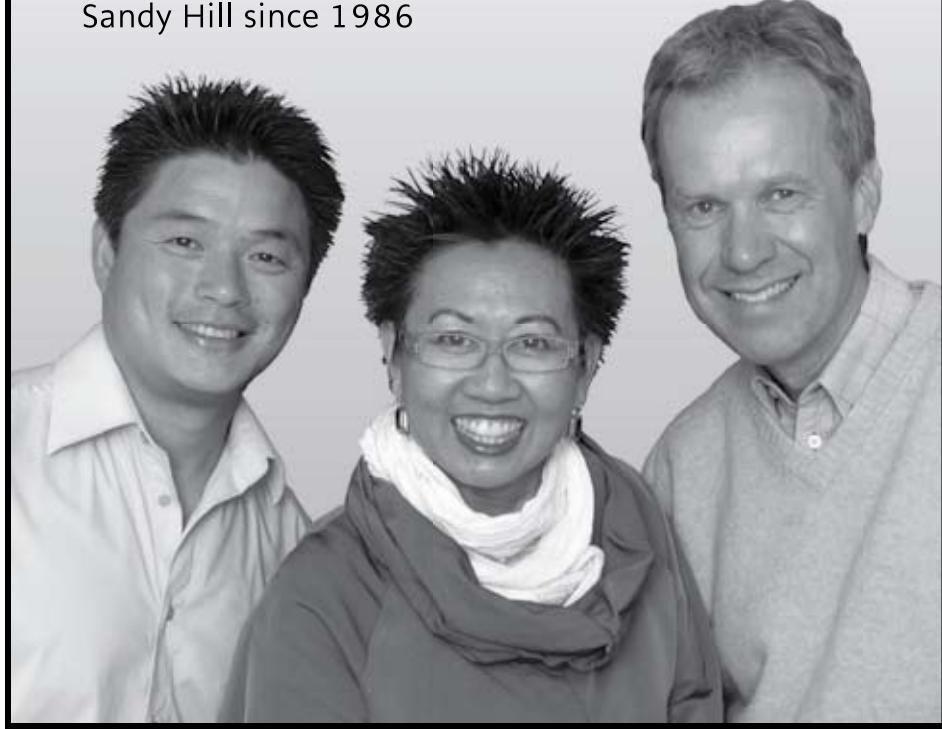
The City will tear up Rideau Street from Dalhousie to Cummings Bridge next year. It's a year's project (or longer) and the exciting thing about it is the plan to install brand new power and telephone poles. Wait a minute, on the north side of the street the wires are already buried! Why not bury the south-side wires while we've got the street torn up? Our Councillor, Mathieu Fleury, is all for it and has said that he's working hard for it to happen but the money (about \$1.5 million) is nowhere in the budget that was just passed. All we know is that wires may be buried if money within the project can be found. Why do we suspect that the problem may be buried instead of the wires? —Larry Newman

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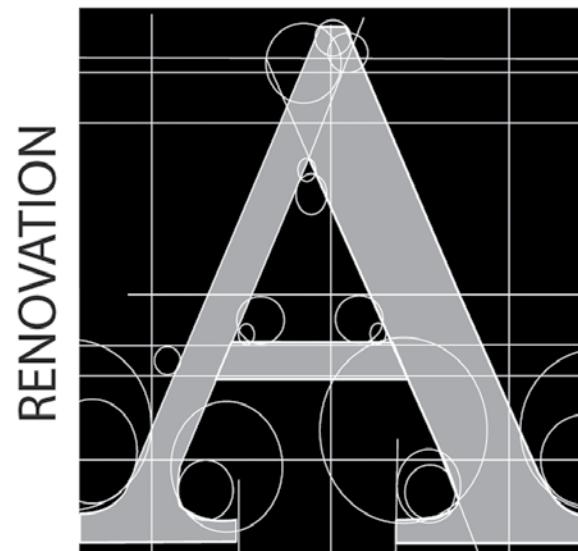
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President Rock replies to the open letter to the Board of Governors

Karen Bays

The last issue of IMAGE printed a letter from Sandy Hill residents that was sent to the University of Ottawa Board of Governors. The letter, which has collected over 100 signatures, originated out of frustration with increased noise, garbage, and vandalism in the community. These problems have been steadily escalating over the last ten years as the University population has grown from 25,000 to 40,000+ students. While most Sandy Hill residents enjoy our vibrant, urban area with a rich mixed population, many feel the University should do more to assist the community and the student residents with the impact of this growth.

In addition to identifying the problems, the letter made the following four recommendations: 1. Provide adequate on-campus student housing; 2. Create a Code of Conduct which covers students living both on and off campus; 3. Provide a dedicated office to support students living off campus, whose mandate includes working with local residents to resolve problems; and 4. Provide funding for additional policing in residential areas adjacent to the University.

For those who agree in principle with the letter and have not added your name to the document, you may still do so by e-mailing openletter2uofo@gmail.com. Additions to the list will be forwarded.

At right is the reply from the Board, signed by President Allan Rock.



Neighbourhood kids pick up skills from Gee Gees at free clinic

Twenty young hopefuls from this part of the city came out for a 4-weekend basketball clinic offered by volunteers from the Gee Gees men's team, at the Patro this fall. The whole men's team came out, including head coach James Derouin, and each participant received a free Ottawa U basketball and t-shirt. Highlights of the program were one-on-one instruction, a spectacular scrimmage between Gee Gee's and kids (kids won!) and a dunk competition at the conclusion of each session.

Local realtor Chad Richardson, who sponsors Men's Basketball on the campus, brokered the event when he heard from Councillor Mathieu Fleury that there is a shortage of affordable recreational programs in this area. The Councillor's office handled the registration and they plan to run it again in 2012.



Serbian ambassador's "side yard" for sale

On Blackburn Avenue, between Laurier and Osgoode, two large houses lodge the Serbian Embassy and the Serbian ambassador's residence. Beside the latter, a park-like yard slopes down all the way to Osgoode Street. Near the bottom is a concrete pool with what looks like a column in the middle. It has had nothing but rainwater in for many years. Every spring, scilla bulbs take over from the grass and blanket the yard with mauve-blue flowers. In the autumn, the ground is covered by fallen leaves from the many mature trees. This summer, neighbours heard a resounding "crrrack" when a huge branch split off one of those trees in a wind storm.

At one time, the owner of the embassy and the residence was Yugoslavia, but as that country has split into smaller parts over the last decades, the sign on the door has changed several times. While the owner country was shrinking, the maintenance and operating costs of these two old houses have no doubt been increasing. This fall, "For Sale" signs appeared on the rusting wrought iron fence which surrounds the ambassador's side yard. The houses are not on the market, just the lot. In fact, the survey shows four deep lots in this space. They are zoned R4F, a designation which excludes the possibility of rooming houses and retirement homes, but allows low-rise apartment buildings, stacked buildings, and of course, single, duplex and semi-detached homes. Neighbours are watching closely to see what the future will bring to this green space which has up to now been under the wing of its diplomatic owners. — *Betsy Mann*

Thank you for your recent letter. We appreciate the opportunity to respond to your concerns.

First of all, we strongly believe that the overwhelming majority of our students have a positive impact on our community, in Sandy Hill and beyond. Indeed, not only our students but also our staff and faculty participate constructively as residents—often as volunteers—in community activities and initiatives, and we are proud of their contribution.

As your letter points out, however, some individuals have not met their responsibilities as citizens and members of the community. With respect to the incident in Stanley Park, we share your view that this was unacceptable, and we emphasize that the University does not condone or encourage this type of behaviour.

With respect to the concert on Tabaret Lawn, we regret any inconvenience this may have caused. We recognize that we must continue to work with individuals and associations who contract to use our facilities to ensure that noise limits are respected. We have put measures in place to ensure that those who use our facilities are aware of municipal by-laws, and we are confident that our corrective actions will minimize the risk of future incidents.

As you may know, two years ago, the University started the Good Neighbours Committee. This group, co-chaired by our municipal councillor and a representative of the University, has included representatives from ASH, student government, City by-law enforcement and the police. The group has helped bring forward and coordinate several initiatives including the following:

- Working with residents to resolve complaints with respect to individual behaviour
- Working with independent organizations to communicate community expectations (such as encouraging non-university groups to hold welcome week activities outside of Sandy Hill)

- Providing waste and recycling education and pick-up at the end of the academic year (both on- and off-campus)
- Coordinating community volunteers to participate in training student leaders for welcome week
- Partnering with ASH and City by-law enforcement in outreach to addresses where individuals have engaged in disruptive behaviour.

The Good Neighbours Committee has produced some encouraging results. We believe that, in partnership with the community, we can continue to improve the quality of life in Sandy Hill. Together with our municipal councillor and Action Sandy Hill, we are reviewing this model in the hope of creating a "Town and Gown Committee" in the coming year with a renewed mandate.

Your letter made specific suggestions with respect to housing and security. We will examine them seriously and have already referred them to the relevant sections of the University so that they may be considered as we allocate capital, prepare our budget and conduct operational planning.

I can also report progress in key areas of concern. Our Campus Housing Office provides services like those you recommended, including information for students and property owners on tenants' rights, garbage schedules and advice on neighbourhood relations. We are always eager to improve our practices and so we have met with community representatives to discuss further improvements in service to students and the community.

We encourage you and your neighbours to engage with the Good Neighbours Committee, which provides a constructive forum in which to discuss and implement suggestions like yours to improve the quality of life in our community and our university.

Thank you again for your letter, and I look forward to working with the Sandy Hill community towards our shared goals.

Allan Rock, President

Je vous remercie pour votre récente lettre. Nous sommes heureux d'avoir l'occasion de répondre aux préoccupations que vous avez exprimées.

Tout d'abord, nous sommes convaincus que la très grande majorité de nos étudiants et étudiantes ont un impact positif sur la Côte-de-Sable et la communauté élargie. En fait, nos étudiants, mais aussi les membres de notre personnel administratif et de notre corps professoral, participent activement aux activités et initiatives communautaires comme résidents, et souvent même comme bénévoles. Nous sommes fiers de cette contribution.

Toutefois, comme votre lettre l'indique, certaines personnes ont manqué à leurs devoirs de citoyens et de membres de la communauté. Nous sommes d'accord avec vous que l'incident au parc Stanley était inacceptable, et nous vous assurons que l'Université d'Ottawa n'approuve ni n'encourage ce type de comportement.

Pour ce qui est du concert sur la pelouse du pavillon Tabaret, nous regrettons tout inconvenient causé. Nous reconnaissions que nous devons continuer à travailler avec les personnes et les groupes qui louent nos installations pour assurer le respect des limites de bruit. Diverses mesures correctives ont été mises en place pour veiller à ce que tous ces utilisateurs soient au courant des règlements municipaux, et nous croyons que ces mesures diminueront le risque de futurs incidents.

Comme vous le savez peut-être, l'Université d'Ottawa a fondé le Comité de bon voisinage il y a deux ans. Ce groupe co-présidé par notre conseiller municipal et un représentant de l'Université comprend des représentants d'Action Côte-de-Sable, des associations étudiantes, de la police et des services d'application des règlements municipaux. Le groupe a aidé à mettre en avant et à coordonner plusieurs initiatives, dont :

- Travailler avec les résidents pour résoudre les plaintes touchant des comportements individuels
- Travailler auprès d'organismes indépendants pour faire connaître les attentes de la communauté (p. ex., encourager les groupes non affiliés à l'Université à tenir les activités de la semaine d'accueil à l'extérieur de la Côte-de-Sable)
- Fournir des services de recyclage et de récupération des déchets à la fin de l'année

scolaire (tant sur le campus qu'à l'extérieur) et sensibiliser les étudiants à ces questions

- Demander à des représentants de la communauté de participer à la formation des leaders étudiants pour la semaine d'accueil
- Travailler avec Action Côte-de-Sable et les services d'application des règlements municipaux pour communiquer avec les résidents des adresses où on a signalé des comportements perturbateurs.

Le Comité de bon voisinage a produit des résultats encourageants, mais nous croyons qu'il est possible d'améliorer encore plus la qualité de vie dans la Côte-de-Sable en partenariat avec la communauté. Nous examinons présentement notre modèle de comité avec notre conseiller municipal et Action Côte-de-Sable dans le but de fonder un comité mixte université-communauté au cours de la prochaine année, doté d'un mandat renouvelé.

Dans votre lettre, vous avez fait des suggestions précises touchant le logement et la sécurité. Nous les examinerons sérieusement et les avons déjà transmises aux secteurs pertinents de l'Université pour qu'on puisse en tenir compte dans l'affectation des fonds, la préparation des budgets et la planification opérationnelle.

Je peux aussi vous parler des progrès accomplis dans des domaines clés. En effet, notre Service du logement fournit déjà des services comme ceux que vous recommandez. Entre autres, il donne de l'information sur les droits des locataires aux étudiants et aux propriétaires, diffuse l'horaire d'enlèvement des déchets et fournit des conseils sur les relations de voisinage. Comme nous sommes toujours soucieux d'améliorer nos pratiques, nous avons discuté avec des représentants communautaires d'autres améliorations à apporter aux services aux étudiants et à la communauté.

Nous vous invitons, de même que vos voisins, à participer au Comité de bon voisinage, forum propice à des discussions constructives pour améliorer la qualité de vie de notre communauté et de notre université à l'aide de suggestions comme les vôtres.

Merci encore pour votre lettre. Ce sera un grand plaisir de travailler avec la communauté de la Côte-de-Sable à l'atteinte de nos buts communs.

Le recteur, Allan Rock

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 :

> **Faire sa prière**, qui signifie « s'adresser à Dieu pour lui demander ses grâces, son aide, son pardon pour soi-même et pour ceux que l'on aime et également pour l'en remercier de tout coeur » – non pas – dire ses prières, ce qui est un anglicisme.

Ex. – Depuis sa plus tendre enfance, cette jeune femme s'agenouille toujours pour faire sa prière, matin et soir.

> **Il est essentiel d'agir adéquatement**, qui signifie « il est important, il est indispensable de faire quelque chose correctement » – non pas – il est impératif, ce qui est un anglicisme.

Ex. – Lors d'occasions spéciales, tel une rencontre civique, artistique, littéraire ou autre, où les divergences d'opinion éclatent et frôlent quelquefois la colère, voire l'insulte ou l'injure, il est essentiel de rester calme et pondéré en exprimant son opinion, afin d'apaiser l'orage des sautes d'humeur, de façon adéquate.

> **S'interroger sur quelque chose**, qui signifie « se poser des questions précises et claires sur sa propre façon de penser, de juger et d'agir » – non pas – se questionner sur quelque chose, ce qui est un anglicisme et ce qui est un verbe transitif et **non** pronominal en français.

Ex. – Face à certaines situations épineuses, pouvant avoir des effets fâcheux qu'on est appelé à analyser et à régler, on doit d'abord s'interroger honnêtement sur sa capacité actuelle de jugement avant de poser un acte décisif et final, lequel portera le sceau de son propre comportement.

> **Penser à l'avenir**, qui signifie « songer, réfléchir au temps qui vient, à plus tard, à ses projets, à son destin » – non pas – penser au futur, ce qui est un temps de verbe ou s'emploie comme adjetif en français.

Ex. – Depuis quelques années déjà, on remarque que beaucoup d'étudiants d'université sont plus occupés à s'amuser, à fêter, à se divertir entre amis plutôt que de penser sérieusement à leur avenir et de s'y préparer au moins de temps à autre.

> **Avoir du bon sens**, qui signifie « avoir la capacité de juger avec raisonnement et compréhension » – non pas – faire du sens, ce qui est un anglicisme.

Ex. – Dès l'annonce officielle qu'une forte tempête de neige allait s'abattre sur la ville, le propriétaire de l'usine a démontré avoir du bon sens, en décidant sur le champ de fermer boutique et de donner congé à tous ses employés.

> **Recevoir une réprimande**, qui signifie « écoper d'une remontrance, d'un blâme sévère de la part d'une autorité envers un inférieur » – non pas – recevoir une simple tape sur les poignets, ce qui est un anglicisme.

Ex. – Cet employé de longue date a enfin reçu du directeur général une forte réprimande accompagnée de menaces de renvoi, à cause de son attitude arrogante et de son comportement malicieux envers ses collègues de travail.

> **Avoir du plaisir**, qui signifie « s'amuser, se détendre, se divertir » – non pas – avoir du bon temps, ce qui est un anglicisme.

Ex. – Lors de son départ vers l'Europe, la jeune avocate a vu arriver ses collègues pour lui souhaiter d'avoir du plaisir et de bien profiter de ses vacances !



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LE HAVRE

A shoeshine man takes in a boy who arrives illegally on a container ship. A new comedy/drama by Aki Kaurismäki.
(In French with English subtitles, Rated PG)

December 9 to 17

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DETECTIVE DEE AND THE MYSTERY OF THE PHANTOM FLAME

Martial arts meets murder mystery in Hark Tsui's witty and visually spectacular new action movie.
(In Mandarin with English subtitles, Rated 14A)

December 9 to 12

THE MILL & THE CROSS

Gorgeous new film that follows painter Pieter Bruegel as he prepares to paint his masterpiece.
(In English, Rated 14A)

December 16 to 22

CAFE DE FLORE

A tale of two true loves by Jean-Marc Vallée (C.R.A.Z.Y.)
(In French with English subtitles, Rated 14A)

December 16 to 29

- Movie Magic!
- Sparks fly between a washed-up silent movie star and an up-and-coming ingénue in this love letter to the Hollywood of the 1920s.

(Silent movie, b&w with English intertitles, Rated PG)

The ARTIST
Opens December 23!





Gift ideas in Santa's Hill

Yvonne van Alphen

You mightn't think so, but there's really no reason to leave Sandy Hill when it comes to doing your Christmas shopping. Let me introduce you to six local businesses, who love what they do, and have in store some great gift ideas for you and your family, and friends - all right here in Santa's Hill.



The cat's out of the bag. The Ottawa Dog Blog (ottawadogblog.ca/) lists **The Sandy Hill Pet Food Co-op** as stocking the "cheapest pet food/supplies in Ottawa." The reason is simple. Everything is marked up equally, including this year's Best Overall Healthiest Pet Food winner, ORIJEN, a food nourishing cats and dogs as nature intended. Purchase a 2.5 kg bag (Regional, Red Meat Formula) for \$19.50.



The pet shelf shifters are small packets of PureBites treats. Pets just can't get enough, rich in protein and freeze dried for natural goodness. Great pet stocking stuffers at \$3.80/packet! The Co-op is open 7 days a week except holidays, online orders accepted, and it makes home deliveries.



You can't go wrong with online gift certificates for a fine dining experience at **Bistro @ Signatures**. Pick from any one of three promotional holiday menus: holiday lunch @ \$35, holiday dinner @ \$65 and their special New Year's menu @ \$110. Or, simply surprise someone with a registration to the up and coming "Hearty Stews from the various regions of France" demonstration, 21 January 2012, priced at \$60. For real foodies, go to the gift boutique, for cookbooks like Le Cordon Bleu at Home @ \$77.25 and the Chocolate Bible @ \$55. Or, for those with a sweet spot, whip up a dozen of Chef Yannick Anton's Cointreau and chocolate truffles.

Cointreau & chocolate truffles Chef Yannick Anton, Le Cordon bleu

Ganache

250 g (grams) dark chocolate

50 g butter

100 g sugar

200 ml cream

30 ml cointreau

To coat the truffle:

Cocoa powder 200 g

Melted Dark chocolate 200 g

Melt the dark chocolate and butter in the top of a double boiler

Boil the cream and the sugar and pour on top of the chocolate

Stir well and add the cointreau

Cool down and put in the fridge

When the ganache is cold, form small balls with your hands

Dip in the melted chocolate, shake off the excess of chocolate and roll in the cocoa powder

Serve at room temperature



Look to **Lucas Nault's Hair Salon** for a gift in hair. Sandy Hill's only green and energy efficient salon in the downtown core is cutting rave reviews for quality cuts (\$45-\$60), best colours (\$65-\$160) and trendy stylists. Or, custom design your own gift basket of eco-friendly hair products: Products formulated using organic chemistry, such as Session Organics, Kevin Murphy, Sparitual, and Koko colour (sulphate, paraben, sodium

chloride free.) Products fragrance and ammonia free, such as Essensity hair colour (100% coverage) or Illumen ammonia free hair colour, approved by the Cancer Society (no grey coverage). Products such as Lucas Nault's own mineral line – makeup, highly pigmented, safe for even the most sensitive skin, and suitable for virtually any ethnic background. Or, for the girl into makeup, consider a Lucas Nault's Mineral Make-up class @ \$160.



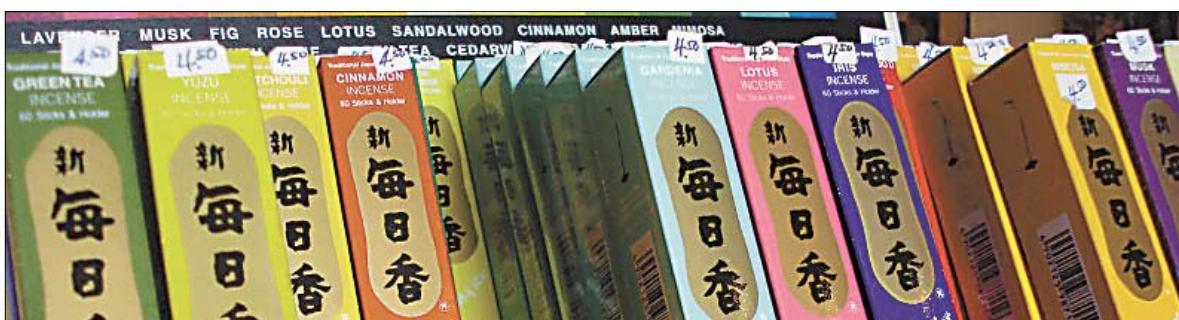
New to Sandy Hill, since January, **Enviroboutique** has some fun and funky gift ideas, including large decorative bowls, made in South Africa, woven out of red and black telephone wires @ \$86.72. Gifts that recycle one product's useful parts for a newer greener product! For the office, a large waste paper basket designed from old rubber tires @ \$72.00, or a tall elegant lamp, with a shade of colourful recycled business cards @ \$70.00, or a simple, pink waxed paper mache tea light cup @ \$2.00. For Fido, snuggle into a pastel orange pet bed, stuffed with the fill of 54 plastic bottles. For the traveller, a medium-sized toilet bag recycled from used seat belts, or for the more nautical, the red edition, using an old sail @ \$50.00. Stocking stuffers include a small waterproof wallet for \$12.00 for the guys and paper bracelets @ \$13.27, for the gals.





Did you know that Sandy Hill has its very own custom designed leather and leather repair shop? **Gregory's Leather**, a family-run business, has been crafting leather coats, jackets, vests, skirts, and slacks, and much more, mostly out of lamb and calf skin, since 1973. It's the place to go for quality leatherwear at a good price. An unbelievable variety of leather jackets in different lengths and colours, priced from \$200-\$700, including a dazzling Christmas red. Or, for those who've got the jacket, how about a pair of cool jet black leather slacks @ \$125. Or, for someone looking for warmth, a Canadian leather hat with beaver trim and ear flaps @ \$120, or a pair of suede or leather gloves @ \$45, or perhaps a smart ice blue vest @ \$120. No matter what the gift, a gift in leather lasts a long time.

Photos by David Elden



Stuck for a gift idea? Step down into **The Garden of Light** on Laurier. Stunning, coloured, single/double capiz shell lotus candle holders, handcrafted in the Philippines @ \$14.99/\$16.99! Add non-toxic, non-allergic, bees wax tea candles, seven for \$13.99 (one burns for 3 hours). There are 120 different fragrances of incense, ranging from Japanese, Nepalese, Indian to Canadian; a wide selection of Tibetan bowls, each marked, by a local U. of Ottawa student, with the chakra they resonate, and a new essential oil, Chamomile @ \$11.99. Scarves: every fabric (rayon, cotton, and cashmere), every colour and price, ranging from \$9.99-\$175.00. New this year, brightly coloured Nepalese shoulder bags @ \$16. Add a Tree-Free card, made out of recycled sugar cane fiber, with inspirational greeting such as, "Sending you a bouquet of light."



Profiled businesses

The Sandy Hill Pet Food Co-op
304 Wilbrod Street
(613) 321-5915
Website: sandyhillpetfood.ca/

Bistro @ Signatures Restaurant
453 Laurier Avenue East
(613) 236-2499
Website: bistroatsignatures.com/

Lucas Nault Hair Studio
232 Laurier Avenue East
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Viscount students in October before the vandalism, with a new tree.

News from Viscount Alexander Public School

Michael Barnes

Remembering on November 11

Students from all classes contributed to Viscount Alexander's Remembrance Day ceremony. The theme of peace and empathy was a central part of the event and was reflected in a wide range of poignant and thoughtful student presentations.

Thanks to a donation from veterans the entire school was able to visit the Canadian War Museum on November 12. These two events gave the students the opportunity to reflect upon Canadian values and the sacrifices that so many have made to protect the freedoms that we enjoy. It is fitting, perhaps, that our school was named after His Excellency Field Marshal the Right Honourable the Viscount Alexander of Tunis, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief in and over Canada (1946-1952) whose own active military service spanned some 30 years including both the First and Second World Wars.

Practice makes perfect

Viscount Alexander, like all OCDSB schools, has an evacuation plan. Just a few weeks ago the plan had to be put into action. Excavation work in the area ruptured a water main. Although the break was not on school property, the loss of all water supply to the school triggered a mandatory evacuation. Parents, guardians and caregivers were notified and asked to come and pick up their children. Within two hours of the decision to evacuate, the last child was picked up from the school. While not fun, it provided staff and students with a practical experience of what is required to evacuate all the students in a calm, competent manner.

What's Borden ball?

Dating back to the Middle Ages, this lively game is now underway at school. Wikipedia describes it this way, "Handball

(also known as team handball, Olympic handball, European handball, or Borden ball) is a team sport in which two teams of seven players each (six outfield players and a goalkeeper) pass a ball, aiming to throw it into the goal of the other team." Whatever you call it, Borden Ball is a hit with the students!

Vandalism hurts everyone

Who would have thought anyone would, in two separate incidents, deliberately break down five new trees planted last spring in the schoolyard. The trees had been planted to provide shade so students could, from time to time, have an outside class and not be in the direct southern sun. Obviously those who did this damage hadn't considered the long hours of volunteer care required to get the trees watered throughout the hot and dry summer or the fact that it is too late to plant trees in November let alone the expense of replacing those trees. On a more positive note, Action Sandy Hill indicated they will help provide replacement trees in the spring which is very much appreciated. Sadly, vandalism hurts everyone.

Thank you May Court Club of Ottawa
Quietly and unwaveringly the May Court Club of Ottawa has, over the years, provided a reserve of emergency non-perishable snacks to the school. Granola bars, applesauce and cheese and crackers have been a staple for those occasions when a student comes to school without a lunch for whatever reason. Learning can be hard enough by itself let alone having to do it on an empty stomach. Thank you May Court Club of Ottawa for your special support.

New to Sandy Hill?

If you would like to find out more, please call the office at 613-239-2213 to arrange a visit and/or visit the school web site at www.viscountalexanderps.ocdsb.ca.

Happy learning with free online university courses

Ron Hodgson

Somehow I got on the mailing list of an organization called "The Great Courses" (www.aboutgreatcourses.com). They sent me a glossy 50 page magazine with detailed descriptions of many courses ranging from "The Study of Effective Reasoning" to "Ancient Greek Civilization." According to the Los Angeles Times it promised "Passionate, erudite, living-legends lecturers." Many of the courses would be on DVD, some on CD and others offered on both with prices from U.S.\$20 to U.S.\$140. If you ordered them you would receive neatly packaged disks playable on your TV or computer, and probably an associated booklet. The teaching professors were from well-known universities such as Loyola, Penn State, UCLA, Notre Dame and others.

Being a frugal learner, I thought I'd see what could be obtained on the web and was pleasantly surprised when I turned up a huge array of university-level courses which can be downloaded, watched on line or recorded onto your own CD or DVD. Not only do they come from recognized U.S. colleges but also other international universities and often in other languages than English. Best of all they're free!

The best source I have found for free courses is iTunes U (www.apple.com/education/itunes-u/) which you can access if you have the free iTunes application on your computer. iTunes U has gathered together courses from a number of different sources which you can go to directly and watch without advertisements. It has an immense array of material covering just about anything you can think of from over 400 universities and institutes of learning across the world including 9 in Canada. They claim that more than 800 universities have active iTunes U sites. About half of these institutions — including Stanford, Yale, MIT, Oxford, and UC Berkeley — distribute their content publicly on the iTunes Store.

I selected a course called "Writing Tools - 50 Essential Strategies for Every Writer" based on the book by the same name and found it excellent. It's presented as an audio podcast by the author, Roy Clark of the Poynter Institute. You can download the podcasts into your computer or portable device and then listen to them as you take your morning exercise or as you're driving to work.

I tried another, "A Romp Through Ethics for Complete Beginners" from Oxford

University presented by Marianne Talbot, a very confident and striking lecturer. This is a series of fourteen 90-minute video lectures and includes downloadable charts and notes for easy reference. Now I know what "metaphysical" means and can begin to understand the various moral theories from non-cognitivism to utilitarianism.

The choice is almost endless. Apple claims they have 350,000 free lectures, videos, films, and other resources — from all over the world.

But iTunes U isn't the only source. YouTube provides a window to an extensive set of lectures and course material. They have been compiled at freevideolectures.com/blog/2010/12/400-free-online-courses-youtube/. There are a lot of mathematics, science and engineering courses to be found here as well as a smaller percentage of history, literature and general arts courses.

As well, many learning institutes have made their archived courses available on the web. By entering a university name and the words "free courses" you'll be able to find out what they offer. Most major universities in the U.S. have programs but some Canadian universities do as well and I believe that more and more will be getting on this bandwagon to attract potential students and publicize their programs. A few examples are:

- MIT Open Courseware at (ocw.mit.edu/index.htm)
- Harvard University Extension School through their Open Learning Initiative (www.extension.harvard.edu/open-learning-initiative)
- McGill "COOL" program (cool.mcgill.ca/Default.aspx)
- The Open University based in Milton Keynes, England (openlearn.open.ac.uk/)

Most of these courses are accessible to people with disabilities. iTunes U and others work with Voice-Over technology and of course, being able to access courses from your home means that people with limited mobility can still access the learning environment.

With such a selection, it may be difficult to choose where to start so a bit of planning may be worthwhile. Think about the subject area you want to study, then see what resources are available. Do a test run and compare the lecturers, course material and format. It's nice to be able to compare freely rather than being locked in to a course lecturer that you don't like but that happened to come with the set of DVDs you ordered from the catalogue.

Happy learning!

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Bettye Hyde School's "rip-roaring" trivia night

Bettye Hyde Co-operative Nursery School held its sixth annual trivia night in Bate Hall on Nov. 19 and it was a "rip-roaring" success. The hall was filled with current and former Bettye Hyde parents and their friends and neighbours. Everyone had a wonderful time, but the first among equals (i.e. the "winner") this year was the team, "Camp Catherine United," a rowdy group of trivia-lovers who snatched the trophy (a basket of wine) from the always formidable team of Bettye Hyde teachers, who have won more than once.

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Elgin St Video Station
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The night began at 6:30. The bar was open shortly thereafter, serving three great brands of Mill Street Brewery beer that quickly sold out. Five segments of questions-and-answers periods were ably emceed by Mark McLaughlin and the entire evening was administered by a committee of dedicated parents.

All and all, it was a night for fun and community and a great success for Bettye Hyde.

The kids at Bettye Hyde who will benefit from the proceeds would like to thank the following for their generous gifts.

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Sandy Hill resident wins silver at Pan Am Games

Kelleigh Ryan, who lives on Templeton Street, won a silver medal in fencing at the 2011 Pan Am games. The Canadian Fencing team coached by Sandy Hill resident Paul ApSimon travelled this fall to Guadalajara, Mexico, where the Games were held. Kelleigh, who has been on the team for four years, is the anchor of the Canadian team event and is seeking to qualify for the Olympics in London next summer. The Canadian team fenced at the world championships in early October in Sicily, Italy. The team finished 8th, while Kelleigh finished 22nd in the individual event. Both of these results are a best-ever result for Canada in the Women's Foil discipline.

Left—Kelleigh Ryan, a Sandy Hill star. Above—the Canadian team left to right—Sandra Sasseine, Alanna Goldie, Paul ApSimon, Kelleigh Ryan, Monica Peterson.



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Les chanceliers de l'Université d'Ottawa : un poste de prestige plus que centenaire



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

d'Ottawa de 1965, le poste de chancelier devient ouvert à tous et le Bureau des gouverneurs annonce, le 22 novembre de la même année, la nomination de Mme Pauline Vanier, épouse du général Georges Vanier, gouverneur général du Canada. Mme Vanier marque notre histoire en devenant, le 17 février 1966, la première laïque et la première femme à occuper ce poste.

Le chef titulaire de l'Université

Le chancelier s'avère le chef titulaire de l'Université d'Ottawa et la place d'honneur lui est réservée lors de la collation des grades et des autres cérémonies importantes. Le chancelier est membre d'office du Sénat et depuis 1987, membre honoraire du Bureau des gouverneurs.

Le chancelier représente l'Université d'Ottawa dans divers événements d'importance au sein ou à l'extérieur de l'établissement, tels que les cérémonies commémoratives, les activités d'accueil de la population étudiante, les remises de prix et d'autres événements, notamment les conférences extraordinaires et les visites de dignitaires.

En réalité, il est difficile d'analyser le rôle exact du chancelier dans la gouvernance de l'Université d'Ottawa. Bien que le titulaire de ce poste puisse assister à un grand nombre de réunions, ce qu'il fait très rarement, il ne remplace pas le recteur et vice-chancelier dans ses fonctions. En fait, bien que le

Mme Pauline Vanier, première femme à occuper le poste de chancelier de l'Université d'Ottawa en 1966.
AUO-PHO-NB-6-1300

chancelier ne prend aucune décision dans les affaires courantes, il peut néanmoins jouer un rôle important en donnant une image positive à l'institution et en ouvrant des portes afin de faire avancer des dossiers, notamment auprès des gouvernements, du monde des affaires et de la collectivité. Le chancelier peut aussi donner des conseils, servir d'intermédiaire et à l'occasion régler des conflits. Cela dit, il n'y a pas de règles écrites à ce sujet et chaque chancelier définit l'engagement et le temps qu'il souhaite consacrer au développement et au rayonnement de l'Université d'Ottawa.

Six chanceliers depuis 1965

Depuis 1965, six chanceliers se sont succédés à la tête de l'institution : Mme Pauline Vanier, Gérald Fauteux, ancien juge en chef de la Cour suprême du Canada; Gabrielle Léger, épouse du gouverneur général Jules Léger; Maurice Sauvé, époux du gouverneur général Jeanne Sauvé, une ancienne diplômée de l'établissement; Gordon Henderson, un important philanthrope du milieu des affaires et ami de l'institution et, depuis 1994, Huguette Labelle.

Mme Labelle, une Franco-Ontarienne éminente plusieurs fois diplômée de l'Université d'Ottawa, occupe plusieurs postes prestigieux dans la fonction publique fédérale et sur la scène internationale. Très présente au sein de l'institution et appréciée de tous, Mme Labelle est celle qui a été le plus longtemps à ce poste depuis la restructuration. En fait, peu de personnes connaissent mieux l'évolution récente de notre établissement que le chancelier actuel.



Chantal Petitclerc, athlète paralympique et olympique réputée, reçoit un doctorat honorifique en 2006 des mains de notre chancelier, Huguette Labelle.

AUO-EL-6-207-img0172

Mme Michaëlle Jean, prochaine chancelière

À l'automne 2011, le Bureau des gouverneurs annonce avec grande fierté que Mme Michaëlle Jean, ancienne gouverneure générale du Canada et envoyée spéciale de l'UNESCO pour Haïti, succèdera, le 1^{er} février prochain, à Mme Labelle, qui quitte après 18 ans de loyaux services. C'est de loin, le plus long mandat depuis 1965 et il ne fait pas de doute que son départ marquera une page d'histoire de la maison d'enseignement bien enracinée dans la Côte-de-Sable depuis 1856.

Pour plus de renseignements, on peut me joindre à michel.prevost@uottawa.ca ou au 613-562-5825.



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Kudos to chef Peter Evanchuk and craft sale organizer Hélène Lacelle (right), shown above with visitor Joan Alexander.

Come for the food, stay for the art One & Only arts & craft fair celebrates five years

November 20, 2011 saw the One & Only arts and craft fair back in splendid form at the Sandy Hill Community Centre. It has been produced and hosted for the past two years by Hélène Lacelle and Peter Evanchuk, in partnership with Action Sandy Hill (ASH).

From an idea originally cooked up (or crafted) in the kitchens of Maria von Finckenstein, Joan Alexander, Lorraine Clavelle, Mina Hanbury, Eiko Emori and Vaishali Chouhan, the event is now attracting over one thousand visitors. They come to view the work of over 50 local artists and crafters.

Ms. Lacelle, who starts working on the fair in late August, reminds us that as an artist/producer/host she has insight into making such an event succeed. Paraphrasing a popular hair commercial she says with a smile, "I not only am the producer of the event but I also am one of the artists presenting my art for sale." Ms. Lacelle is a dedicated and hard working person. She volunteers her time and talent along with other members of the community to make the event succeed. And succeed it does as it now has become one of Sandy Hill's most successful events of the year.

For over 30 years, Ms. Lacelle has exhibited in various galleries and restaurant galleries in North America, Mexico and Europe. But she's always had a special interest in her hometown of Ottawa. Here she has regular showings of her work, exhibiting not only in the Karsh/Masson Gallery but also in numerous restaurant galleries like Carmen's Veranda on Bank Street where she now has a showing of her art.

Photo H. Lacelle



Over 50 artists/crafters and hundreds upon hundreds of guests made One & Only a huge success once again.



By eleven the community centre saw a steady stream of interested buyers and browsers.

A slogan of the One & Only fair is "Come for the food stay for the art." An appropriate slogan, as Ms. Lacelle's partner is Chef Peter Evanchuk who, along with several community volunteers, keeps a free buffet full and flowing through the day. Chef Evanchuk along with assistants François Bregha, Dallas Fletcher and Marc Lacelle kept the never ending line of hungry folk well fed with hundreds of burritos, samosas, sushi rolls, and trays and trays of Thai noodles, Mexican chilies, Ukrainian perogies, German potato salads, Iranian vegetarian rice plates, desserts and fresh fruits.

"I'm not sure if it's the Ukrainian heritage that makes me want to feed people because the work really is much more fun than work," says Peter Evanchuk. "Despite the 40 to 50 volunteer hours it takes to purchase, prep, and make the various food items, when I see all those members of my community smiling and enjoying my food, my creative input to the success of the fair, I'm very happy indeed. And I know that the volunteers from ASH, the artists and the guests all share my joy in such a successful local event."

We are looking forward to decades of ongoing success with this great event.

—P. Evanchuk

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HUTZELBROT A healthy holiday treat - imagine!

Dodi Newman

Hutzelbrot is a flavour-packed and delicious fruit bread that is as different from the English/North American fruitcake as the best French bread is from Wonder bread. It contains no eggs, added fat or sugar, and is rich in minerals and vitamins. Children have a great time when you let them help you to work all that fruit into that little bit of bread dough - it is rather like making mud pies and just as messy, but the results are so much better! 10 loaves may seem like a lot, but the loaves make welcome holiday gifts from your kitchen and I have found that 10 is barely enough. The recipe can be halved.

Yield: 10 small loaves of Hutzelbrot.

The Fruits

500 grams dried apricots or
250 g dried apricots and 250 g dried pears
500 grams prunes (with pits)
500 grams dried figs (the kind that are strung on a length of raffia work best)
250 grams golden raisins
250 grams dark raisins or currants
3 tablespoons dark rum
200 grams walnut halves
200 grams hazelnuts
200 grams almonds, blanched
125 grams candied citron peel, chopped
125 grams candied orange peel, chopped
2 lemons, the grated rind of

The Bread Dough

2 cups water
2 tsp sugar (optional, to proof the yeast)
1 envelope dried yeast
2 tbsp salt
6 cups unbleached all-purpose or bread flour
2 tsp anise seeds, finely chopped
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1/2 tsp ground cloves
(mix spices with the flour)

The night before, soak the apricots, pears (if using), prunes and figs in plenty of water to cover in a very large pot.

On baking day, remove figs from the pot and reserve. Stew the remaining fruits, in enough of the soaking water to just cover them, for 20 minutes or until the fruit is done but not mushy. Drain very well, saving about 2 cups of the stewing liquor, and cool. Soak the raisins in the rum, cover and reserve, stirring occasionally.

While the fruit is simmering, make the bread dough using the ingredients listed and following steps 1 and 2 of the instruction on this website: allrecipes.com/recipe/french-bread/ (Be sure to mix the flour with anise, cloves and cinnamon first.) Set the dough to rise. When doubled in bulk, punch it down and let it rise again.

Trim the stem ends of the figs and cut them in thirds or quarters. Chop the citron and orange peel. Pit the prunes and pull the prunes and apricots in halves (pears, if using, in thirds). Butter and flour two large cookie sheets.

Now the fun begins: pull the risen dough into a large, thin round. Spread all the fruits and nuts (except the almonds - reserve them for later) over the dough and work the whole mess so that the fruit and dough are mixed as evenly as possible. Divide the mixture into 10 equal portions, shape and smooth them into round loaves, place on cookie sheets. Decorate the loaves with the almonds, hedgehog fashion. Let rise again.

Put the bread in a preheated, 360°F oven and bake for 30 minutes. Turn oven down to 325°F; bake the loaves for another hour. The bread will be very dark, but the fruit needs time to dry. Meanwhile, boil down the stewing liquor to 1-1/3 cups. When the bread is done, brush each loaf with the liquor while it is still very hot. Thoroughly cool the loaves on a rack.

The Hutzelbrot will keep for a few days, unrefrigerated. Serve it sliced into 1/2-inch slices and, if you want to gild the lily, spread a slice with some cold butter. This bread freezes very well. To freeze, wrap the loaves in plastic wrap or seal into a plastic bag. Let them defrost in their wrapper and, if desired, crisp them in a 350°F oven for ten minutes.

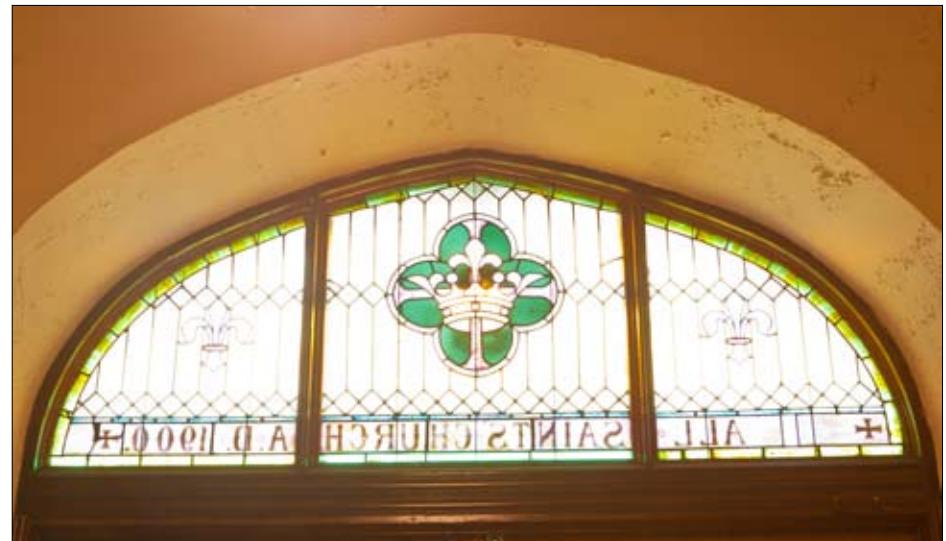


Photo Bill Blackstone

Whither All Saints' Church?

Ralph Blaine

On Friday November 11, the doors of All Saints' Anglican Church in Sandy Hill opened to a meeting of architects, real estate experts, people selected from the community at large and members of the congregation - about 70 people in all. They had been convened by the local Anglican diocese to consider the future of this handsome building at the corner of Chapel and Laurier. IMAGE was invited in to observe.

The first thing that hits you when entering Sandy Hill's All Saints' Anglican Church is the beauty of this space. From the golden warmth of the wooden choir stalls to the coloured splendour of the vaulting stained glass panels that frame the pews, this is a place of worship that soothes the soul and no doubt inspires the loyalty of the congregation. And, as one of the windows tells us, at one time this devotion extended to one of our country's Prime Ministers - Sir Robert Borden.

Alas, once the eye has feasted on the architectural features of this Gothic Revival Church built in 1900, other details come into focus. On the north side of the interior wall plaster is flaking off, there are cracks here and there and the stained glass windows are covered with plastic sheeting that has suffered tears in several spots. In the pews that one time were filled with over 200 worshipers on a given Sunday there are now no more than 40 to 60 in attendance - and, one suspects, few Prime Ministers or others with deep enough pockets to maintain this heritage building.

In fact we soon learned that the church and associated buildings will need \$5.6 million in repairs in the next 20 years - \$2 million of those in the next three years. Would it be possible to raise this amount by using the land around the church for some type of residential/commercial development? This was the question to be addressed by two panels of experts, lay people and community members. Put more precisely, the panels were asked to propose options for development that would allow the church to continue its mission here in Sandy Hill, or if that proved impossible, options that would maximize the economic return to the Anglican community.

Any re-development of the property will face zoning restrictions. The church property comprises the entire stretch of land on the south side of Laurier from Chapel to Blackburn. There is a church hall attached to the main building on the Blackburn side of the property. The church rectory is located two doors down from the hall. In between is a private residence at number 16 Blackburn Ave. The church itself has a heritage designation. In effect, this means that the church is a protected property and any redevelopment of the nearby land must be of the same scale and character as the existing buildings. It was made clear to the participants that zoning changes would be needed to maximize the return of any development and that seeking such changes would extend timelines and add uncertainty. With these conditions in mind the two study groups set to work. By Saturday at 4:00 p.m. they were ready to present their ideas.

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Beth Shalom Temple sold

Wandering the public areas of Beth Shalom Temple is a bit like taking a tour among some of the best known names of our community. There are the Freimans of the former Rideau Street department store and Irving Taylor who for years owned and operated our only grocery store. A former president of Beth Shalom was Irving Rivers, a legendary merchant in the ByWard Market and the list goes on. But like some other religious congregations in our neighbourhood, for the past decade Beth Shalom has been waging a rear-guard action for survival. This Shul, which was founded in 1956 when the two oldest Jewish congregations in Ottawa merged, along with the adjacent Jewish Community Centre founded in 1951, became a the centre of a vibrant downtown Jewish community which would often fill the 800 seats of



their Temple for a Shabbat service. Even now, on the high holidays of the Jewish faith, the 350 families that belong to this Synagogue can fill the pews, but for most of the year the 100 or so members who attend are swallowed up by the large, handsome sanctuary at 151 Chapel. As a result Beth Shalom now has an operating deficit of roughly \$200,000 per year and a significant debt linked to renovations made in 2004.

The renovations followed the 2003 decision of the congregation to make a change from an Orthodox service to a traditional Conservative approach which allowed for mixed male/female seating and a larger role for women in religious life. Although this change did eventually increase attendance at Beth Shalom, another development was whittling away at their viability. In the '80s and '90s there was an increasing migration of the Jewish community away from the downtown core towards the west end of the city. So

Photo Bill Blackstone



Members of the Blue Team, Randall Goodfellow, Barry Padolsky, Robert Wu and François Bregha tour the property with churchwarden Neil Forsyth.

The Red Team

The report of this team was given by local architect Barry Padolsky. It included the following proposals:

1. Retirement home

Current zoning would allow the church hall to be replaced by a 5 storey retirement home. However, the market for this type of accommodation is soft right now. *To maximize the return on any development it would be necessary to purchase the house at 16 Blackburn Ave. The next two ideas assume such an acquisition.*

2. Apartment tower – 10 stories

This project would see the demolition of the church hall and the two houses to the south on Blackburn. They would be replaced by an infill development of 4 to 5 stories. Rising from this 4 to 5 storey platform and set back more from the street would be a 10 storey tower.

3. Apartment tower - 14 stories

Similar in all respects to #2 above except that there would be a one storey commercial building at the corner of Laurier and Blackburn. A 14 storey tower would rise out of a platform set along Blackburn Ave. This project might produce a gain of three to four million dollars for the Church.

The Blue Team

This report was given by another local architect, Gordon Latimer. Their proposals were similar to the last two made in the Red Team's report. *They also assume the purchase of the house at 16 Blackburn Ave.*

1. Apartment tower – 8 stories

The current playground area at Blackburn and Chapel would be converted to a "public space". The stretch of Blackburn Ave. south of this space would be replaced by a 2 storey podium with mixed townhouses and commercial space. Rising out of the northern two thirds of this podium would be an 8 story tower with a mix of

low and medium income apartments. Out of the southern end of the podium would rise a 4 storey residential building.

This would yield about \$2.4 million to the Church from 12 townhouses and 58 apartments plus about \$9000 per month in commercial leases.

2. Apartment tower – 16 stories
There would be a small two storey commercial building on Laurier at Blackburn. The rest would be similar to option #1 directly above except that there would be a 16 storey tower rising out of the street level platform of townhouses. This would provide 23 townhouses, 70 apartments. This would yield about \$3.3 million for the Church and some income from commercial leases.

All of the options from both teams would leave the church building to the current congregation as a place of worship.

Summary

At the end of the presentations everyone was impressed by the amount of work done in such a compressed time frame. No doubt much credit goes to Jim Lynes who served as one of the main organizers and was emcee for the public meetings. As he scanned the impressive presentations at the front of the Church the local Anglican Bishop John Chapman summed it all up by saying "This is the future."

Clearly though, much more work needs to be done before that future starts to crystallize. None of the proposals above would produce enough money to meet the long-term capital needs of the church. Given the delays involved in zoning changes, it seems questionable whether the pressing short-term needs can be addressed by these proposals either. Something surely needs to be done to preserve this beautiful building in our midst; but as the Bishop also said, such an effort will require a great deal of "creativity." So far it looks like the Diocese and the congregation are determined to meet that challenge.

much so that a decision was made to move the Jewish Community Centre out of its premises at 153 Chapel to a new site in the west end. This left Beth Shalom with 50,000 square feet of empty space in an overall complex of 80,000 square feet in which the heating and other systems were fully integrated. While this space was eventually rented to a variety of tenants, Beth Shalom still faced a growing financial crunch.

It was with these pressures at play that the executive and the board of directors of Beth Shalom received a mandate to explore how their property might be marketed to ensure the future of their congregation. In the end the only serious proposals left standing were for the purchase and redevelopment of the entire 80,000 square foot parcel. And so it was that on November 6 at the Annual General Meeting of Congregation Beth Shalom the roughly 200 members present voted by an 85% majority to sell the property to Claridge Developments. Jay Amdur, vice president of the congregation, explained that the purchase price of \$15 million could increase depending on the final zoning designation of the property as a whole. He reports that the congregation has four years to make arrangements for a new site and they are considering many options – probably somewhere west of downtown. He acknowledges that a few of the congregation who, for religious reasons, now walk to the Shabbat services on Chapel will no longer have that option but when the very existence of Shul is at stake tough decisions have to be made. —Ralph Blaine

The ongoing challenge of church properties in Sandy Hill

Ralph Blaine

All Saints' Anglican is not the first Sandy Hill Church to look to its real estate assets as a way to raise cash to supplement declining revenues. The Catholic Church has a significant real estate portfolio in our neighbourhood ranging from private homes, missions and church buildings. At least four houses owned by the church have been sold in recent years – two on Stewart Street and at least two on Daly. These properties have reverted back to private residences in two cases, apartments in another and a Zen centre at 240 Daly. In addition, the large Christian Brothers property on King Edward between Daly and Stewart was recently acquired by a developer and the foundations of another condominium development are now being poured next to the heritage building on this site. Long before this, property on Laurier Ave. belonging to St. Joseph's Church was used to build student residences for the University of Ottawa. Participants at the recent All Saints' planning session were also interested to learn that the Jewish congregation of Beth Shalom have sold their property at 151/Rideau to the developer Claridge.



Upcoming Events

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Dec. 7, 14 | Midweek Advent worship @ 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve Toddler service @ 11 a.m. |
| Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve worship @ 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 25 | Christmas Day worship @ 10:15 a.m. |
| Jan. 1 | New Year's Day worship @ 10:15 a.m. |
| Feb. 22 | Ash Wednesday worship @ 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 29, Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28 | Midweek Lent worship @ 2 & 7 p.m. |
| Mar. 31 | Easter for Kids. 8:30-Noon.* |
| Apr. 5 | Maundy Thursday worship @ 7 p.m. |
| Apr. 6 | Good Friday worship @ 2 & 7 p.m. |
| Apr. 8 | Easter worship @ 7:30 & 10:15 a.m. |
- 3rd Sat./month @ 1-3 p.m.: Boy & Girl Pioneers (ages 5-13).
* Call (613) 234-0321 for info or to register.

Sunday:

- Worship: 10:15 a.m.
Bible study: 9 a.m.
Sun. School: 9 a.m.



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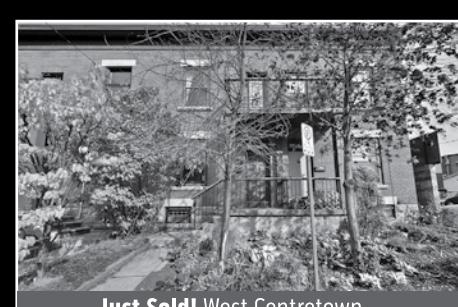
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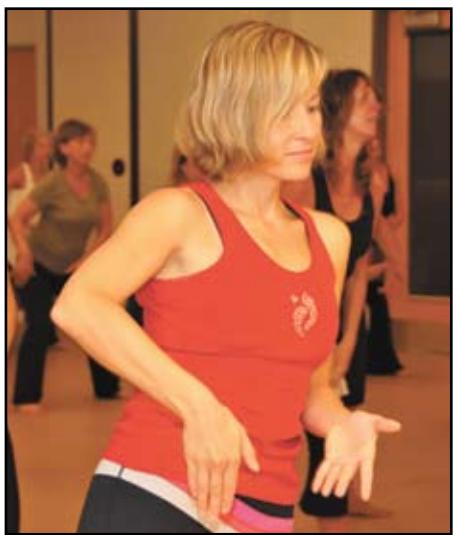
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Given the many church properties of all denominations in our community and the recent declines in church attendance, Sandy Hill will surely be faced with ongoing challenges of how to ensure the survival of some of the most striking architectural features of our streets while also ensuring that future developments in the midst of our neighbourhood blend as harmoniously as possible with what we value most about the character of our ever-changing urban core.


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A Blue Christmas Service?

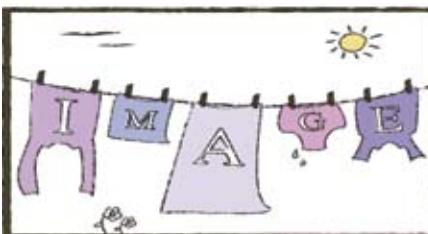
While for some this is the "season to be merry," in fact, the celebrations of the season sometimes magnify challenging circumstances or significant losses.

The Blue Christmas Service has been developed to give those who are finding the season difficult a place that acknowledges how they are feeling. It offers gentle prayers, music and hope which are intrinsic to the message of a loving God come amongst us. After all, Christmas is about light coming in darkness and hope coming to weary travellers and humble workers.

Blue Christmas Service will be offered this year in Sandy Hill at 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 18th in the downstairs chapel of All Saints' Church at Laurier and Chapel. An ecumenical venture, this year people from St. Paul's Eastern United, Sacré-Coeur, St. Joseph's and St. Alban's will combine to offer the service in English and French.

If you or someone you know is struggling at this time of year, the service might be of help. To accompany a friend who is finding this a hard time of year could be the best gift you can give them.

Nia - now offered in Sandy Hill
Deceptively low impact, Nia offers an energetic cardiovascular workout. The classes are about an hour long and go through seven cycles. There is an invitation to step in, followed by warm-up, get-moving, cooling down and some floor play, then step out. In Sandy Hill classes are held on Tuesdays, 6 p.m.-7:15 p.m. at St. Paul's Eastern, 473 Cumberland St., starting up again on January 10, 2012. See niaintottawa.com for more information.



BULLETIN BOARD

Cohousing - new group welcomes members

In 1972, the first "Bofoellesskaber," or "living community," was pioneered in Denmark which led to many more such developments in that country. These communities combine the autonomy of private dwellings with the advantages of community living. Each household has a private residence but shares, with the group, extensive common facilities, such as a dining room, kitchen, sitting area, laundry, guest suite, and perhaps a workshop or exercise room. These common spaces offer residents a dinner out, a glass of wine with friends, a game of cards, a movie, or a yoga class. These closely knit neighbourhoods, more like extended families, are made up of diverse groups of people; residents choose when and how often to participate in community activities and enjoy homes in safe, friendly and supportive environments.

California architects Kathryn McCamant and Charles Durrett, after starting a family and being disillusioned with the isolation and impracticalities of traditional single family homes, studied the European cohousing models and published the seminal book *Cohousing, A Contemporary Approach to Housing Ourselves*, coining the word "cohousing" in the process. They have been involved in the formation and design of North American cohousing communities, some urban, some suburban and some rural. There are now 224 cohousing groups in the US and 18 cohousing communities in Canada. Here in Ottawa, the seven unit Terra Firma Cohousing community has been in existence since 1997.

Most recently, Convivium, a group of adults (single and in partnerships) intends to develop and live in a centrally located cohousing condominium, ideally in Sandy Hill. Older members hope to "age in place" within proximity to shopping, services, and culture. Members will benefit from one another's skills, society, and spirits and are dedicated to sound ecological practices and an environmentally sustainable development.

New members and inquiries are welcome. Contact Convivium at conviviumcohousing@gmail.com or phone 613-241-6326.

Seymour Mayne poems online

Ricochet, Seymour Mayne's latest collection (bilingual) of poetry is available via Open Access from the U. of Ottawa website, as follows: www.ruor.uottawa.ca/en/handle/10393/20354. This is the first time U. of Ottawa Press has published a book of poetry online. Many of the poems in the sequence "Hail" were written with the ambience of Sandy Hill in mind.

Seeking volunteers for our rink

After a smashing success in our first season running the outdoor rink in Sandy Hill Park, Action Sandy Hill is again looking for volunteers to help flood and

maintain the rink this season. Due to the great response last year, we have a good volunteer corps to draw from, which means that you do not have to commit more than a few hours during the January-February season. If you are interested in helping out, please contact us at: sandyhillrink@gmail.com.

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Neighbourhood Food Talks

Are you interested in meeting with others to share and learn about the different food activities, programs and issues that are happening in Sandy Hill and beyond? Join us for Food Talks, a place to discuss what is happening in the neighbourhood and to support each other in our efforts. Our next meeting will be in early February. For more information, please contact Geri Blinick, Community Developer at Sandy Hill Community Health Centre, at gblinick@sandyhillchc.on.ca, or 613-789-1500.

You are invited to a **Kitchen Table Talk** at Sandy Hill Community Health Centre, scheduled for late January. To register please contact Geri Blinick, at gblinick@sandyhillchc.on.ca, or 613-789-1500.

A slate of policy drafts have been developed through community participation and research and will result in a **Food Action Plan For Ottawa: a Community Vision**, a part of the Food for All project. The Kitchen Table Talk at Sandy Hill Community Health Centre is a way to share some of those policies and get your feedback on them. Food for All is a project aimed at addressing food issues in Ottawa, led by Just Food and the University of Ottawa. The goal of the project is to develop community-based food policy drafts with recommendations for the City of Ottawa, to make sure that food in Ottawa is for everyone.

Local Health Integration Network

is the topic at Canadian Federation of University Women general meeting, January 9, 7:30 - 9:30; St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church, 2400 Alta Vista Dr. www.cfuw.org Guest Speaker: Chantal LeClerc, RN, M.Sc., GNC (C), Interim CEO, Champlain Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) Her clinical and research expertise is in the care of older adults, particularly those with dementia. She was awarded the 2007 Excellence Award in Nursing Leadership by the Ontario Hospital Association.

2012 Season under the Stars

Odyssey Theatre announces its 26th season of Theatre under the Stars in Strathcona Park. From July 26 to August 26, 2012 the company will present Marivaux's comic masterpiece *The Game of Love and Chance*. As well, Rag and Bone Puppet Theatre's *A Promise is a Promise*, an adaptation of the Canadian book by Robert Munsch and Michael Kusugak, will be offered to young audiences on Wednesday afternoons.

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Illustration Dawna Moore

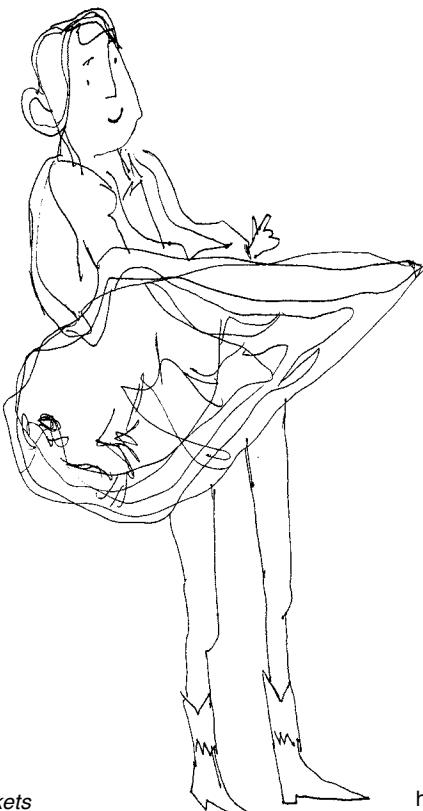
CALENDAR**December 2011- February 2012****Events and shows taking place in or near Sandy Hill**

Until Dec. 17 – *I Hate Hamlet*, a comedy by Paul Rudnick and directed by Sarah Hearn, Ottawa Little Theatre, 8 p.m., \$25, \$22 (seniors), \$10 (students), 400 King Edward Ave., 613 233-8948, ottawalittletheatre.com

Until Dec. 18 – The Ottawa School of Art's 27th annual holiday fundraising art sale, 35 George St., www.artottawa.ca

Until Jan. 6 - *Visual Conversation*, an art exhibition by Hamid Ayoub, Heartwood Gallery, 153 Chapel St., Mon-Thurs 4-6 p.m., Fri 3-5 p.m. or by appointment, 613 297-5379, hamidayoub.ca

Until Feb. 12 – *Enfolded* features the work of Ghitta Caiserman, The Ottawa Art Gallery, Arts Court, 2 Daly Ave., drawing workshop to be held on Jan. 21 from 1 – 4 p.m., talk with curator Catherine Sinclair (in English) on Jan. 27 at 12:30 p.m., 613 233-8699, ottawaartgallery.ca



Until Feb. 19 – Edna Patterson-Petty, African-American Contemporary Quilts, The Ottawa Art Gallery, Arts Court, 2 Daly Ave., In Conversation event with Adrian Harewood and Edna Patterson-Petty on Feb. 2, 6:30 p.m., 613 233-8699 ottawaartgallery.ca

Until Feb. 19 – *Star Blankets* by Wally Dion, talk with curator Catherine Sinclair on Feb. 17, 12:30 p.m., The Ottawa Art Gallery, Arts Court, 2 Daly Ave., 613 233-8699 ottawaartgallery.ca

Dec. 13 – The Tree Reading Series meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, featuring Christmas tree all open mic, 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., treereadingseries.ca

Dec. 17 – Frontier College Reading Circle/Cercle de lecture Frontier College, help your child become a better reader through stories and games, led by Frontier College volunteers, ages 5-10 years old, in English and French, 10:45 – 11:45 a.m., Rideau Library, 377 Rideau St., 613 241-6954, biblioottawalibrary.ca/en/main/overview

Dec. 17, 18, 21, 24, 25 and Jan. 1 – Celebrate Christmas with St. Andrew's Church, kids' church Christmas for preschoolers and their families (Dec. 17 at 4:30 p.m.), the choir of St. Andrew's Church, directed by Thomas Annand,

presents Bach Christmas Cantatas nos. 140 and 65 with chamber orchestra, followed by carol singing in candlelight (Dec. 18 at 4 p.m.), Blue Christmas Service (Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m.), pageant and midnight carols and readings (Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m. and 11 p.m.), informal worship services (Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 at 11 a.m.) St. Andrew's Church, Wellington at Kent, 613 232-9042, StAndrewsOttawa.ca

Dec. 20, Feb. 21, Mar. 20 – Pen and Paper Writers' Workshops, sponsored by the Ottawa Independent Writers, all welcome, Rideau Library branch, 6:30 – 8 p.m., 377 Rideau St., contact Marilyn Oprisan at moo@sympatico.ca or 613 746-3077.

Jan. 9, Feb. 6, Mar. 5 - Evening Book Club at Rideau Library branch, 7 – 8:30 p.m., *Jack Maggs* by Peter Carey (Jan. 9), *The Long Song* by Andrea Levy (Feb. 6), *The Double Bind* by Chris Bohjalian (Mar. 5), 377 Rideau St., 613 241-6954, biblioottawalibrary.ca

Jan. 10 – 28 – *Lost in Yonkers*, a play by Neil Simon and directed by Chantale Plante, Ottawa Little Theatre, 8 p.m., \$25, \$22 (seniors), \$10 (students), matinee on Jan. 22 at 2 p.m., 400 King Edward Ave., 613 233-8948, ottawalittletheater.com

Jan. 18 - Heritage Ottawa lecture series presents "A New Chapter for the Old Ottawa South Firehall," talk by architect Anthony Leaning, Ottawa Public Library Auditorium, 120 Metcalfe St., 7 p.m., free admission, in English, 613 230-8841, heritageottawa.org

Jan. 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 15 – Morning Book Club at Rideau Library branch, 10:15 – 11:30 a.m., *Baltimore's Mansion* by Wayne Johnston (Jan. 19), *Solomon Gursky was Here* by Mordecai Richler (Feb. 16), *The Professor and the Madman* by Simon Winchester (Mar. 15), 377 Rideau St., 613 241-6954, biblioottawalibrary.ca/en/main/overview

Jan. 30 - Action Sandy Hill meets the last Monday of the month, 7 p.m., 613 241-4646, Sandy Hill Community Centre, 250 Somerset St. E.

Feb. 1 – An evening with Frances Moore Lappé, author of the 1971 bestseller *Diet for a Small Planet*, 7:30 p.m., \$10, St. Brigid's Centre for the Arts, 310 Patrick St., usc-canada.org/lappe or call 613 234-6827 x 225

Feb. 4 – In to Me I See (Intimacy) quilting workshop, join artist Edna J. Paterson-Petty to create a 12x12 quilt, free workshop in partnership with the Ottawa Art Gallery, all quilting materials and embellishments provided by gallery, presentation in English with bilingual

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Thank you to all my friends and clients who contributed to making 2011 a record breaking year. Your business and referrals are always appreciated. I am privileged to work in and be part of such a wonderful community! My website is full of great information and news. I encourage you to visit it regularly.

Merci à tous mes amis et clients d'avoir contribué à faire de l'année 2011 une année record. Je vous suis reconnaissante de faire affaire avec moi et de me recommander à vos proches. Je me sens privilégiée de travailler et de faire partie d'une communauté aussi formidable!

Mon site Web est rempli de renseignements et de nouvelles. Je vous encourage à le visiter régulièrement.

Best wishes for a healthy and wonderful 2012! • Meilleurs vœux pour une année 2012 tout en santé!



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The Christmas Letter

Scott Puddicombe

It's Christmas Eve at the Parker house
The old "Tinsel Tree" and decorations are laid out
Bobby and Janie are asleep in their beds
With Christmas morning dreams running through their heads
Upstairs, not a creature is stirring, not even a mouse
But bad news comes this year to the Parker house

Mommy and Daddy sit downstairs alone
There are no Christmas parcels, shiny paper adorned
Daddy's Christmas bonus, delayed a week this year
Now there are no presents and Mommy's in tears
It's not Daddy's fault, no he's not the cause
Their only hope now is Santa Claus

Bobby and Janie race down the stairs
This Christmas morning nightmare catches them unprepared
"Daddy?... Daddy? Were we really so bad?
What made Santa Claus be so mad?"
The children can't understand what it's all about
This bad news, come this year to the Parker house

Now kids aren't strong. They don't know how to adapt
They'll throw a temper tantrum or they'll overreact
But not Bobby and Janie. Those two, they were made of gold

(Bobby's lip starts to tremble as he looks for Janie's hand to hold)

Daddy plays tough (as tough as he can)
While Mommy disappears, her face in her hands
He says "Janie, what do I see there under the tree?
In the back, it's a letter; would you bring it to me?"
She delivers the note, it's as white as a cloud
And they stand there stunned as he reads it aloud

*Dear Bobby and Janie, We had some trouble this year.
The Elves got sick, as did my reindeer.
Things can go wrong with the best-laid plans,
But you're such great kids; I knew that you'd understand.
I'll return on New Year's Eve with gifts in hand.
I'll return on New Year's eve kids, that's my plan.*

Later on the kids go out to play in snow
All the other kids are there with faces aglow
Pop Guns, Skateboards and Barbie Dolls
Boy, those kids, they had it all
Bobby and Janie approach with their heads hanging down
And tell the story of the Christmas Letter looking at the ground

Now kids can be mean, and kids can be cruel
They don't understand sensitivity or the golden rule
But that year, on that street, came a Christmas surprise
A miracle happened, right before their eyes

Shiny new toys strewn on the ground
And the street lies abandoned of movement and sound
Children's footprints pave a path in the snow
Leading straight across to the Parker's front door
Boots and coats lie on the floor inside

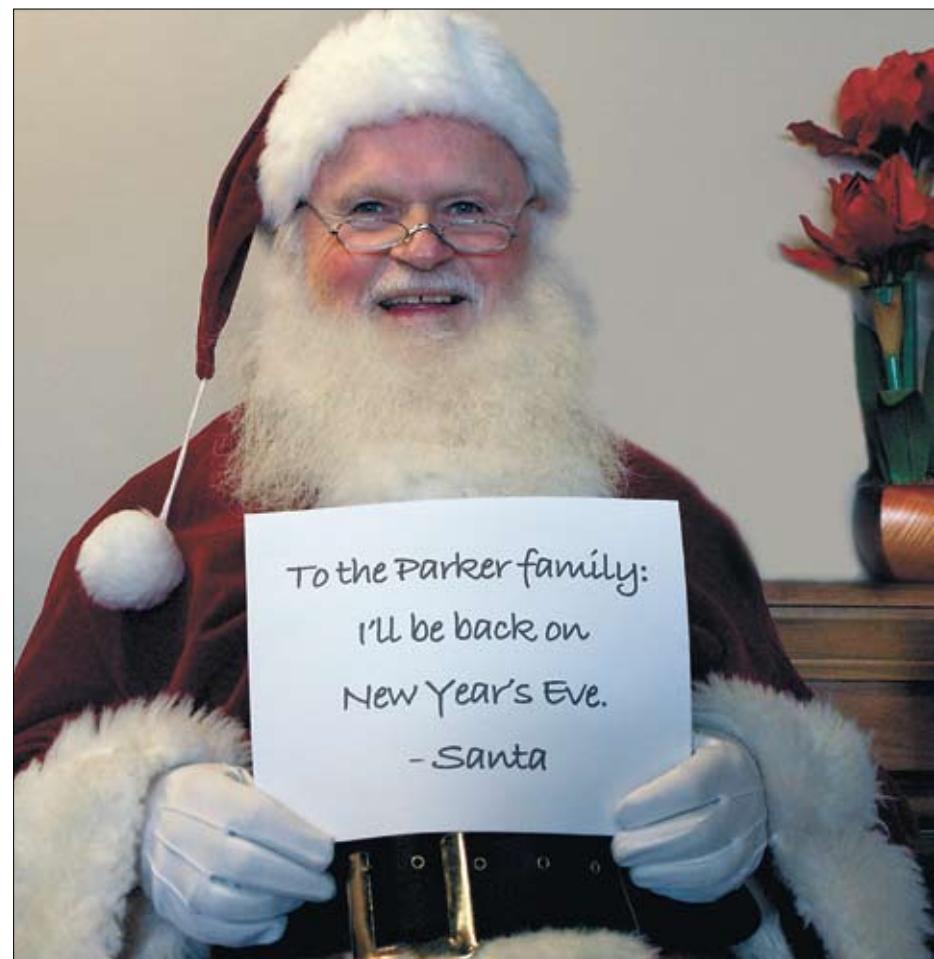


Photo Clive Branson

And there's a warm glow cast from the firelight

Mommy's in the kitchen, hot chocolate on the stove
In the living room, all the kids are lined up in a row
You see from new toys and play, any child will pause
To see a handwritten letter, from Santa Claus!

Children crowd in with their eyes open wide
They all want to see the Parker's surprise

They say, "Let me see it!"... "No it's my turn!"... "Hey, that's not fair!"
"Look!!! There's some soot!!! Santa MUST have left it there!"
"Did you hear him come? Did you see him go?"
"Please tell us everything, we all want to know!"

Bobby stands tall, chest out, so proud
While Janie, once again, reads the note aloud
Daddy sits back in his chair with tears in his eyes
It looks like this year; the Parkers got a Christmas surprise.

Ottawa

Joyeuses Fêtes • Happy Holidays!

Mathieu Fleury

Quartier • Ward 12 Rideau-Vanier

Conseiller municipal • City Councillor

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