



At home with Cairine and the IODE

Senator Landon Pearson, who lives in Sandy Hill, was one of many volunteers extending warm hospitality at the one-time-only IODE House and Garden tour of our neighbourhood in early June. She chatted freely with visitors in the house on Daly Ave. that was once home to Canada's first female senator, Cairine Wilson. Having learned from biographer Valerie Knowles (*First Person*, published by Dundurn Press) that Senator Wilson always wore a pearl necklace in public settings, Senator Pearson followed suit. See page 10 for Paula Kelsall's story about the tour, and more photos.

Bettye Hyde Nursery School meets full-day kindergarten

Ralph Blaine

Was Dalton McGuinty thinking of Bettye Hyde, the popular Sandy Hill-based nursery school, when he decided to implement full-day kindergarten in all Ontario's schools? Probably not, but this venerable institution has already been buffeted by the fallout from this massive change coming to our schools and more challenges lie ahead.

The Bettye Hyde Nursery School is the oldest school of its kind in Ottawa. For many years its main program has been based at All Saints' Church on Laurier Avenue in Sandy Hill where they offer a morning program for 24 pre-school children. In addition they have operated an afternoon program for about 20 students attending half-day kindergarten in the area schools. It's Bettye Hyde's afternoon program that will be facing pressure as the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board gradually rolls out full-day kindergarten in its schools and simultaneously implements on-site extended programs to cover the before and after-school needs of the parents.

Last year the members of the Board of Bettye Hyde were presented with a possible transition strategy when the Rockcliffe School Council asked them to implement an on-site after school program for the junior elementary students. Then, on short notice, they were asked to adapt their plans for the entire school when a previously existing program for the senior grades closed down. In a flurry of

countless hours of planning and hiring new staff, Bettye Hyde designed and put in place an after-school program for the entire school that ran successfully for the entire 2011-2012 school year. However, the School Board made it clear that once full-time kindergarten was implemented at Rockcliffe in 2014 they would implement their own extended program and Bettye Hyde would no longer be needed. This still left Bettye Hyde with the chance to benefit from the considerable planning efforts for another two years and so Bettye Hyde made an official request to lease space at Rockcliffe School for next year. After some delay Bettye Hyde was finally informed on the rather late date of May 30 that the School Board intended to implement its own extended program at Rockcliffe next year – the services of Bettye Hyde would not be needed.

This bad news has left Bettye Hyde scrambling to make alternative plans for next year and understandably upset at the loss of a well-received program that the school had invested so much time and resources in setting up. Is it possible that there might be another chance to profit from this experience? Rob Campbell, the trustee of zone 9, makes it clear that his main objective is to provide in-school extended care of a uniformly good quality – care that parents can trust and count on. The School Board's own policy states that third party providers of extended care programs that had previous contracts with the Board can bid to provide on-site care under the new full-day schedule.

Bettye Hyde — continued on page 9



Parents, children, alumni and neighbours enjoyed the face paint, show, lollipops and crafts at our local English-language nursery school's spring fair held on June 2. Who cares if it is raining outside when there's so much on offer? More photos, page 14.



Chris Weissbach, of WBK Boxing located inside the Champagne Fitness Centre on King Edward, offers one of many places to keep fit through the summer months.

Burgers, beers...and being fit?

Neil McKinnon

Patties. Wings. Beers. Ice Cream. Cottages. Seeing friends. Burgers on the BBQ.

Our short Canadian summer is here. So are the social activities most often responsible for weight gain (i.e. read the list above). But why would anyone go inside from the beautiful weather to do indoor fitness activities?

"Most people keep training in the summer to look good in shorts at the beach and maintain their personal fitness level," says Chris Weissbach, owner and trainer at WBK Boxing located inside the Champagne Fitness Centre.

Weissbach trains boxers from all fitness levels, ranging from those who compete to those who cross-train in preparation for another sport. He says boxing is a wellness sport, and uses the catch phrase "punch like hell and go to heaven."

"I'm biased. There's nothing like hitting the heavy bag," says Weissbach.

Summer indoor fitness activities are not as popular as they are in January or September but there is a good following, says Donald Harris, recreation supervisor for Champagne Fitness Centre.

Harris says people, particularly those living in the urban core, enjoy swimming indoors. Compared to many pools around the region, the Champagne Fitness Centre's pool has a cooler water temperature. Extended hours cater to the working crowd, opening early morning and closing late at night.

Regardless of the time of year, working out is all about a chosen lifestyle, says Lenny Sabourin, University of Ottawa manager of fitness and instructional programming.

Summer fitness in the 'hood— see page 4

IMAGE

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direction of Diane Wood

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direction de Diane Wood

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

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

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

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Tel: 613-237-8889

E-mail : image22@rogers.com

Website: imagesandhill.org

Editor:
Jane Waterston

Rédactrice de langue française :
Denyse Mulvihill

Advertising: Peter Rinfret, Jane Waterston

Research/admin/translation:

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

Production: Jane Waterston

Photographers: Bill Blackstone, David Elden, Claire MacDonald, Iain MacDonald

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September 24, 2012

(target delivery October 5)

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

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

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

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Courriel : image22@rogers.com

Site web : imagesandhill.org

Date de tombée

Publicité, articles, photos et autres soumissions

le 24 septembre 2012

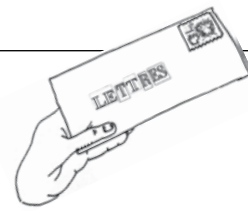
(livraison prévue le 4 octobre)

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**Our readers
write ...**



**Courrier
des lecteurs**

Waco UPF-7 annoys

We moved to Sandy Hill because we wanted to live in the heart of the city. We love being close to the action, which also means accepting a certain level of noise, such as traffic and student parties. However, there is one noise we have not been able to get used to: the Waco UPF-7. Every summer, the Canadian Aviation and Space Museum offers flights over the city in the red vintage open-cockpit biplane. It sounds like a wonderful tourist attraction. But the Waco is loud, it flies at low altitude, and it goes back and forth over our houses on summer weekends, when we want to enjoy leisure time in our backyards. If, like us, you are tired of the noise and question whether such a polluting activity is really something the

City of Ottawa should endorse, send an e-mail to the following people to voice your concern:

Canadian Aviation and Space Museum: aviation@technomuses.ca
Councillor Mathieu Fleury: Mathieu.Fleury@ottawa.ca
Mauril Bélanger, MP: mauril.belanger@parl.gc.ca

Jason Kitchen
Blackburn Avenue

[After a landing accident on June 17, the biplane may be out of service for a while. A spokesperson for the owner Central Aviation of Alberta, when interviewed by the *Ottawa Citizen*, would not speculate on when flights would resume but said the company has other planes that it can use if needed. —Ed.]

Roaster roasted

As much as I appreciate T.A.N. Coffee's commitment to serving high-quality coffee in Sandy Hill, I have been engaged in a quiet boycott since my first visit late last summer. The article Coffee at its very best (April-May IMAGE) referred to T.A.N. as "a microroaster café, the only one of its kind in Ottawa," by which I assume was meant that T.A.N. is the only "microroaster café" not roasting its own coffee. I found T.A.N.'s coffee to be tasty,

if rather expensive, and I do not dispute that the beans (roasted in Toronto) are relatively fresh, but it is sadness which keeps me away; the sight of that beautiful roaster sitting idle in the corner is an unpardonable waste.

T.A.N. Coffee, when you get your act together and fire up the roaster, I will be back, but take note: until that day, I proclaim you to be both lazy and a fraud.

Luc Lendrum
Daly Avenue

Seeking supporters for heritage oaks

I want to call your attention to three heritage oaks in Sandy Hill at the corner of Osgoode Street and Blackburn Avenue which border the large property currently for sale behind the Serbian embassy. These trees are some of the oldest, tallest and most beautifully defining trees in Sandy Hill. The property for sale flows down the hill from Laurier Avenue and has been up for sale now for almost a year.

These trees cannot be replaced and their value must be enormous. The temptation to both harvest them and raze the site for rows of townhouses will be too hard to resist for most developers.

I want to bring the matter up in advance of the sale and redevelopment of the property. It is just a matter of time before the trees become hostage to numerous interests.

However, I believe that it is up to us to set some sort of precedent for the preservation of these ancient oaks.



Photo Bill Blackstone

They deserve to outlive us. How can we prevent their loss?

Barbara Cuerden
Goulburn Ave.

[A small step on the way to protection is the City's *Urban tree conservation by-law* which requires owners to have a permit to cut down trees if they have a diameter of 50 centimetres or greater. — Ed]

Mauril Bélanger

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Summer fitness in the neighbourhood

Continued from page 1

“Going to the gym is not about being proud of your bench press. People go to the gym several times a week because they’re passionate about it. Some do it for the social aspect. Some may prefer to go for runs outside. But a lot of people like to do weights and cardio on their favourite machines,” says Sabourin.

Over at the Old Town Hall on Main Street, assistant Megan Shoemaker says the centre tried running outdoor programs in the summer but it was weather dependent. Running programs indoors means reliability, and for comfort, air-conditioning.

For those needing ideas on various fitness activities offered nearby, IMAGE has some ideas for you:

Champagne Fitness Centre - 321 King Edward Avenue

Swimming hours
Early swim: 6:30 – 8:30 a.m. (Mon-Friday, except for Thursday)
Regular swim: 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
For more information, call 613-244-4402 or visit: ottawa.ca/en/rec_culture/park_facility/facilities/rec_centres/champagne/index.html

WBK Boxing

Located inside Champagne Fitness Centre, WBK Boxing has a 5-week program beginning July 16. A good introduction for rookies; the benefits of taking WBK boxing in summer are the smaller classes and lower initial fee (\$76 instead of \$140). For more details, call: 613-355-4494 or visit www.wbkboxing.com

University of Ottawa Sports Complex – King Edward between Mann and Templeton

Weight room hours
Weekdays: 6:30 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Weekends: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Summer rates: \$130 for students, \$150 for external community
For more information, call 613-562-5789

Patro d’Ottawa - 40 Cobourg Street

Specializing in children’s camps and seniors programming, Patro d’Ottawa is

Ottawa’s only Francophone camp.
Kids Camps: for ages 5-15 years, runs from June 25 to August 17.
Wednesday seniors’ activities: bingos, lunch, activities for seniors and occasional small outings.
Ability to understand and speak French is mandatory
For more information, call 613-789-7733 or visit www.patro-ottawa.com

Lowertown pool (also at 40 Cobourg)
This City of Ottawa pool offers a variety of programs including public swims, aquafitness, 50+ vitality, group and private swimming lessons for adults and children, diving lessons and more.
For information about these fitness activities call 613-244-4406 or see: www.ottawa.ca/en/rec_culture/park_facility/facilities/rec_centres/lowertown/index.html

Old Town Hall (Ottawa East) - 61 Main St.
In cooperation with community partner the Community Activities Group (CAG), Old Town Hall offers a full range of programs. Morning, afternoon and evening fitness classes are available.
For more information, call 613-564-1078 or visit www.ottawaeastcag.ca

Sandy Hill Community Centre - 250 Somerset St. East
Three tennis courts at St. Germain Park off Templeton Street are for the public.
Tennis lessons for children and adults are available 6 days/week. Fees depend on the type of training session.
Note: fitness programs at Sandy Hill Community Centre are limited to tennis and yoga
For more information, call 613-564-1062

St. Paul’s-Eastern United Church – Cumberland at Daly
Yoga classes run year round on Monday at 7:40 p.m.; Thursday at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday at 10:00 a.m.
Tai chi operates every Monday evening at 6:00 p.m. year round.
For information call 613-237-1821

The end of home-delivered mail?

Ron Hodgson

Are you ready for it? When was the last time you bought stamps? What kind of mail were you planning on posting? Do you remember what you paid for the stamps?

In our house, mail has almost become a one-way proposition. We receive but don’t transmit. We have a mail box to receive bills, requests for charitable donations, magazines and junk mail, but hardly ever personal mail with a hand-written address and a letter or card inside. With the possible exception of Christmas when a few die-hards maintain the tradition of mailing Christmas cards, the days of personal letters have almost ended. There are no doubt many people living in Sandy Hill who have never posted a letter.

Last year according to their annual report, Canada Post incurred a loss of \$327 million. True, there was a disruptive strike in 2011 but much of the loss was sustained because of the huge infrastructure and cost of the workforce which needs to be reduced substantially to adapt to the new communications reality. Canada Post employs about 69,000 full time and part time employees within its group of companies (Canada Post and its three non-wholly owned subsidiaries: Purolator Inc., SCI Group Inc., and Innovapost Inc.). Incidentally, I recommend the Canada Post Annual Report Overview which you can get at their website www.canadapost.ca. It is well-presented and makes interesting reading.

Many bills that we receive in our mailbox contain an envelope-sized piece of paper imploring us to move from paper copies to electronic ones. Canada Post is actively trying to move their customers away from paper delivery to a system they call epost, a system that provides you with a personal online mailbox for bill paying. According to their website at www.epost.ca they already have over 100 “Mailers” (the name for companies that send you bills and documents) and are adding more all the time. Other companies are actually threatening to charge us a fee if we do not sign up for electronic billing.

The days when pieces of paper were posted, collected, sorted, transported and delivered are reaching an end. First we’ll see the Post Office reduce the number of delivery days per week from 5 to perhaps 2 or 3. That will allow them to reduce the number of people employed by the postal service to deliver the mail and perhaps retrain some of them to manage the electronic systems. Next will be a cancellation of home delivery altogether in favour of more community mailboxes in all service areas.

Mail prices will continue to escalate until the delivery of a piece of mail to your door will be a very special and expensive event. I’m sure we’ve all experienced the delivery options offered by the postal clerk when you go to mail a parcel. “Would you like to use Expedited Service, sir? Guaranteed delivery in three days.” The alternatives are always kind of scary and one gets the idea that the parcel in question may never arrive. We can expect to see third party bonded companies taking over the role of Canada Post in this delivery evolution, not just for parcels but for letter mail as well.

We’ve seen the evolution of telephone numbers, moving from fixed locations to portable ones. The same is happening with the mail. Texting, e-cards, e-mail, Twitter, Facebook and supporting devices such as smart phones have essentially replaced “snail mail” except in the few locations where the internet is not available. How long will it be before only rural or remote areas where the internet is non-existent or very slow, will be able to receive paper mail?

It’s a tough transition for the posties and the mail service in general but just as the Pony Express and mail coaches were replaced by the Post Office it’s about time to move on. We can expect big changes and more labour unrest over the next few years as this transition plays out. Are you ready for it?



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FINE DINING AND CATERING

Good news about building conversions in Sandy Hill

Jane Gurr

It has happened gradually over the past decade or so, the implementation of a policy by the University of Ottawa to double its student enrolment. This has put pressure on Sandy Hill in numerous ways, one of which is the growing market for rental properties. Owners and developers are responding. More and more single family homes and rental properties are being converted into larger, multi-unit, multi-storey apartment buildings. In some cases this has resulted in the unfortunate loss of backyards, trees and green spaces. These are replaced with apartment buildings that max out the size of building under zoning, for maximum rental revenues.

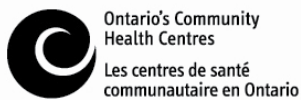
In Sandy Hill we have seen a number of such projects built that are incompatible with the urban design guidelines and with the character of the neighbourhood. Because R4 zoning allows this type of building to happen in much of Sandy Hill, often these conversions come as a complete surprise to those living around a given property and they have little or

no opportunity to have input. No longer. In early May, the City passed a motion, initiated by Councillor Fleury, requiring that buildings being converted to three apartment units or more, go through a site plan approval process. Site plan approval means that the community (via Action Sandy Hill) will have formal access to information about planned developments of this kind before they are approved, and to provide input regarding their conformity to design guidelines along with other issues such as parking and garbage arrangements.

This important change came about in connection with the City's review of infill construction in older neighbourhoods and the introduction of modifications to the zoning bylaw on infill. It is a three-year pilot project for Sandy Hill only, a result of collaboration between ASH, Councillor Fleury and other City officials. It's a modest success but one we hope will result in better buildings in our neighbourhood!

More information about site plan control can be found at the City's website: http://ottawa.ca/en/city_hall/planning-projectsreports/planning/dev_review_process/dev_application/17_3_5/index.html

Sandy Hill Community Health Centre
Centre de santé communautaire Côte-de-Sable



We invite our members and community to our

Annual General Meeting
Thursday, June 28, 2012
at Sandy Hill Community Centre

250 Somerset Street East

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.: Get together with our Staff and Board of Directors, and meet our new Board candidates.

All former Board and Staff are welcome.

6:30 p.m.: Annual General Meeting Business meeting includes the election of the Board of Directors, presentation and approval of the President's and Treasurer's reports.

Refreshments will be served.

Come and get involved in your Community Health Centre!

Only members may vote.

Tous nos membres ainsi que la communauté sont conviés à notre

Assemblée générale annuelle
le jeudi 28 juin 2012
au Centre communautaire Côte-de-Sable

250, rue Somerset est

17h30 à 18h30 : Rencontrez les membres de notre personnel et de notre conseil d'administration ainsi que les nouveaux candidats au conseil.

Les anciens membres du conseil et du personnel sont les bienvenus.

18h30 : Assemblée générale annuelle. Au programme : élection de membres au conseil d'administration, lecture et approbation du rapport du président et du rapport du trésorier.

Des rafraîchissements seront servis.

Participez à la vie de votre Centre de santé communautaire!

Seuls les membres ont le droit de vote.

We are looking for new Board Members!

Nous sommes à la recherche de nouveaux membres pour notre conseil d'administration !

The Centre serves the Sandy Hill and Ottawa East communities and welcomes all people who live or work in our community to become involved as volunteers on our Board of Directors and/or Board Committees. We welcome people with links to the Francophone, multicultural, GLBTQ and senior communities.

If you:

- ❖ are aware of SHCHC's role in the community and support our Mission,
- ❖ are 18 years of age or older,
- ❖ have awareness of current health and social issues,
- ❖ have links with the community we serve,
- ❖ can commit to monthly meetings, advocacy and networking activities for a two-year term,

call Cristina Coiciu at 613-789-1500 x 2505, for more information.

Le centre dessert les communautés de la Côte-de-Sable et de l'Ottawa-Est. Nous invitons toutes les personnes qui y vivent ou y travaillent à devenir membres bénévoles de notre conseil d'administration et de nos sous-comités du conseil. Nous cherchons des personnes ayant des liens avec les communautés francophones, multiculturelles, GLBTQ et les personnes âgées.

Si vous :

- ❖ connaissez le rôle de CSCCS dans la collectivité et appuyez sa mission,
- ❖ avez 18 ans ou plus,
- ❖ êtes au courant des enjeux sociaux et de santé actuels,
- ❖ entretenez des liens avec la collectivité desservie,
- ❖ pouvez vous engager à assister à des réunions mensuelles, à faire la promotion et la défense des causes du centre et à participer à des activités de réseautage pendant un mandat d'une durée de deux ans,

contactez Cristina Coiciu au 613-789-1500 x 2505, pour obtenir plus de renseignements.



Version française disponible en ligne: <http://www.mathieufleury.ca/news-fr>

Less noise, more respect

City Council recently passed an amendment to the Noise By-law, which now allows by-law officers to fine tenants. The new amendments provide more flexibility to the officers, as they no longer need to identify individuals and can instead confirm that noise is occurring and issue fines immediately. Our office brought forward four motions to the Community and Protective Services Committee to support the amendment made to the Noise By-law. These motions included:

Enhanced Awareness

We asked that an amendment be included that will inform landlords of problematic tenants, who in turn can use the information to proceed with an eviction, should the negative behaviour continue.

Implementation of a Gradual Fine System

We directed staff to review the fine system to see if the current amounts are providing a sufficient deterrent. Eventually, we would like to see the implementation of a gradual fine system, where repeat offenders would be subject to higher fine amounts. We also directed staff to regularly update the fine system to keep up with current needs.

Greater Collaboration between the City and Ottawa's Post-secondary Institutions

We asked that a City of Ottawa staff member be identified to work closely with our post-secondary institutions. Such collaboration will ensure that the City and these institutions are able to respond appropriately to challenges arising in our city.

Extended Hours for By-law Officers on Weekends

We directed staff to report back on the status of the pilot regarding extended hours of service for enforcement until 3:30am on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Based on results and resources, staff will review the feasibility of implementation on a permanent basis. By extending enforcement hours, we can ensure more efficient service for everyone.

These amendments come as a much needed change for the community. We hope to see more effective service and enforcement from our officers, with the hopes of improving the quality of life in our neighbourhood.

We hope that these changes will encourage you to contact serviceottawa.ca or 3-1-1 anytime you need to report a noise complaint.



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Au cours des prochaines semaines, Hydro Ottawa réalisera un projet de remplacement de poteaux dans le secteur de Sandy Hill. Il est prévu que cette initiative sera terminée d'ici la fin d'août 2012.

Si nous devons interrompre le courant afin d'effectuer ces travaux, vous recevrez un avis par courrier au préalable.

Hydro Ottawa prendra toutes les mesures nécessaires pour atténuer les pannes de courant, le bruit de la construction et les inquiétudes au niveau de la circulation. Nous apprécions votre patience.

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Michel Laflamme
Direction

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Cristine Elrick is raising children in the neighbourhood and doing a great deal to improve life at their school. In the gift bag from ASH: a glass dish by local artist Eiko Emori, The Designer Glass Studio, Chapel Street www.designerglassstudio.ca.

Photos from the AGM by Iain MacDonald



George Blake, who has managed the community centres in Sandy Hill and Ottawa East for more than a decade, attended his last ASH AGM this year— he will be retiring soon.

Cristine Elrick named local volunteer of the year at our community association AGM

Cristine Elrick was presented with Action Sandy Hill's Volunteer of the Year award at ASH's annual meeting in May.

Cristine, a woman of many talents, has been very involved with Viscount Alexander School and the wider Sandy Hill community. From executive duties – on the Viscount parent council, this year as its chair – to down-to-earth jobs like watering the 23 new trees in the school play-

ground every day last summer, she can be depended on to work with enthusiasm.

Last summer she repainted murals in the school hallway and this year she worked on getting local businesses involved in the May 5 Sandy Hill clean-up as well as being part of the move to get kids active, especially walking to school. She also led an important delegation to the School Board's Business Committee as part of the school's effort to have an addition built.

Congratulations, Cristine!



Action Sandy Hill's Board of Directors for 2012-2013

Two new members, Elaine Koren and Jawad Quereshi, will be attending the ASH monthly meetings this year. Pictured above are ASH directors present at the May AGM. Back row, l-r: Elaine Koren, Eric Crighton, Kyle Simunovic, Christopher Collmorgen (President), Sam Almsaddi, Jawal Quereshi. Front row: Claire MacDonald, Mona Frendo, Marcia George, Julie Crôteau, Sophie Beecher, Jane Gurr. Absent: François Bregha, Liz Kessler, John Verbaas.



Elected officials on hand

MP Mauril Bélanger (above) and MPP Madeleine Meilleur (right) spoke up at the ASH AGM in May.



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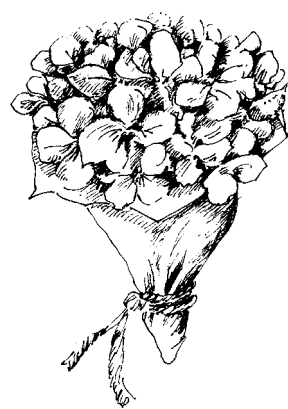
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Queen's University in Kingston has introduced Student Maintenance and Resource Teams (SMART) – pairs of students paid by the student association to roam the neighborhood picking up garbage on the streets and on private and public property.

Association sheds light on ways to improve our quality of life

Christopher Collmorgen

Christopher Collmorgen and Sam Almsaddi of Action Sandy Hill attended the annual Town and Gown Association of Ontario (TGAO) Symposium at Kingston, Ontario, from May 13-15. Three Ottawa Police Services officers, one Bylaw Services representative and three University of Ottawa delegates also attended the sold-out event.

During the meeting Sam Almsaddi was elected to the Board of Directors of the TGAO.

The Symposium agenda revealed that Town and Gown is more than just about "controlling rowdy students" – it is about improving the quality of life for everyone by creating safe, sustainable and healthy communities. An abridged version of the agenda can be found at www.tgao.ca/2012-symposium

Universities add value

The Council of Ontario Universities, made an excellent presentation on how the 21 universities in 35 municipalities across the province can help to enhance communities, revitalize downtown cores, be partners in solving local issues and enrich the economic, social and cultural fabric.

Student-led initiatives

Queen's discussed its struggle with the appearance of the student neighborhood to the north of the campus. Among the main identified problems are 1) students not taking care of the places in which they live, 2) absentee landlords and 3) effectiveness of bylaw services to deal with small issues quickly before they become more serious.

Queen's introduced the Student Maintenance and Resource Teams (SMART) – pairs of students that roam the neighborhood with a cart that has a garbage can, recycling bins, brooms, rakes and dustpans; these teams pick up garbage on the streets and private and public property. They are paid by the university student government. Costs are recovered by charging landlords monthly fees to look after the yards and offer a mail collection service for students that are away. The initiative has been well received and provides the university with some much-needed positive public relations. The city recently selected SMART to be a property standards bylaw contractor. This project was conceptualized by students as part of an entrepreneurial program that had community engagement and revenue generation as criteria.

Nuisance

London, Ontario, reported that its new Nuisance Bylaw was going to full council in late May for final review. As successfully implemented in East Lansing, Michigan, and Fort Collins, Colorado, the bylaw, London believes, will make a difference by dissuading large out-of-control parties, public urination and littering.

A review of the St. Patrick's Day events at Fanshawe revealed that 29 students have now been suspended for their in-

volvement. The College President and the student government continue to push for solutions to prevent further such incidents.

Heads and beds – Ottawa missing

The "Heads and Beds" levy was established as a means to offset some of the costs municipalities incur when providing municipal services to provincial institutions (the number of heads sleeping in institutional beds.) The low \$75 per head rate, established in 1987, means that municipalities are subsidizing provincial costs. More than 50 municipalities are pushing for a rate increase to \$146 but Ottawa – with 100,000 post-secondary students – is not one of them.

Licensing rental properties

Waterloo and Oshawa both have well-established programs in place. London is working on it and Hamilton is considering taking on rental property licensing.

Networking

Between sessions, ASH networked with other community associations, including the Sydenham District Association, the ASH equivalent around Queen's. It is struggling with many of the same issues as Sandy Hill, especially now that students are moving into residential areas and family homes are being converted into student rentals. ASH also met with the head of Save Our Neighborhood Action Group, an organization of "fed up" residents that employs very public and radical tactics to shame Queen's into taking more responsibility for its students' off-campus behavior by dissuading alumni from donating money, approaching parents at campus events and posting the identities of persons found guilty of liquor law violations. SONAG's approach is the result of people feeling that dialogue has failed.

But perhaps the most important discussions were those that the Ottawa delegates had among themselves around the issues we are facing in Sandy Hill. The delegates left feeling more informed about the possibilities and benefits of a strong and collaborative relationship.

New VP for UO

The University of Ottawa is presently searching for a new Vice President of Resources, with the responsibility of community relations in the VP portfolio. ASH was asked by the University – and agreed – to speak with the recruitment company to provide them with an idea of what community expectations are for an improved relationship. The new VP, the three U of O representatives at the Symposium and the pending launch of the Town and Gown Committee indicate the start of a stronger commitment by the University to collaborate with us on addressing the problems of being a near-campus neighbourhood. Change is coming and we need to be ready for what it brings – some will think it is going too fast and others will think it is not going fast enough. Nonetheless, we are on the right path.

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Over the next several weeks, Hydro Ottawa will be conducting a pole replacement project in the Sandy Hill area. This initiative is scheduled to be completed by the end of August 2012.

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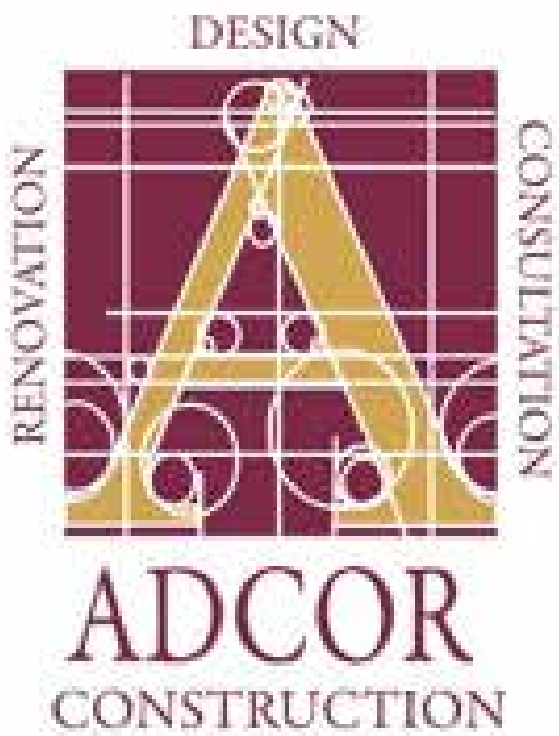
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Bike detours in south Sandy Hill

Bob Meldrum

Construction work at two locations on either side of the Queensway near the Rideau River has necessitated major bike detours. At first, these detours were not well-marked, but now considerable effort has been expended by the City to help cyclists find the right way. Still I find the detours confusing.

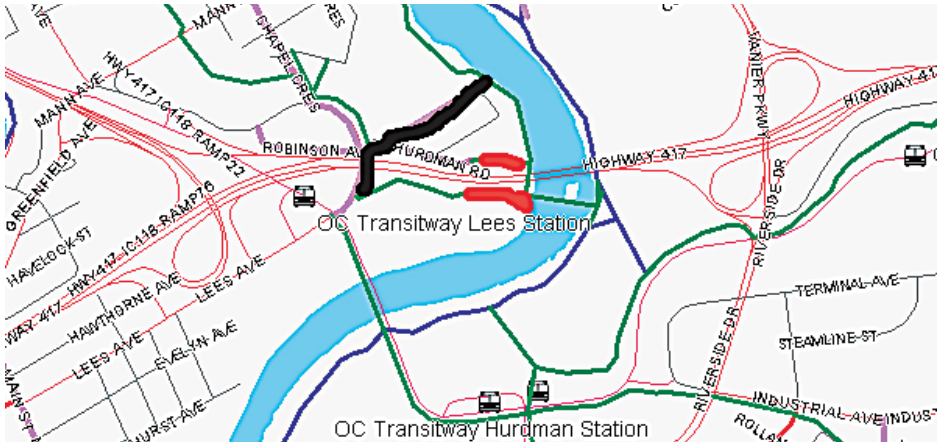
On the south side of the Queensway, the University of Ottawa is putting in a sports field on their property where Algonquin College used to have a parking lot. The bike path that ran along the south side of the Queensway towards the Hurdman pedestrian/cycling bridge over the Rideau River is now blocked. There are three detour signs. The biggest sign says “Bike path closed, Use the Transitway Bridge.” The two other smaller signs left me scratching my head a bit: “Path detour to Lees Ave. south by Transitway bridge”; “Path detour to Lees Ave. north via Hurdman Road.” Luckily there are enough orange detour signs complete with arrows to allow riders to figure out the route.



Photo Bob Meldrum

The advice to use the Transitway bridge is fine for those southbound along the Rideau River eastern pathway. For riders who wish to go north on the Rideau River eastern path, a more complicated detour is required. Signs lead the cyclist over the crumbling bridge over the Queensway to the steep path leading down to Hurdman Road. Normally a cyclist could use Hurdman Road right to the path under the Queensway bridge, but more construction on the north side of the Queensway necessitates a further detour on Lees or Robinson Avenues through a residential area to obtain the bike path on the west side of the Rideau River. Bicycle detour signs show the way here.

If you see any lost looking riders near 200 Lees Avenue, please let them know about the routes that you learned through this issue of IMAGE.



Allow extra time for getting past the roadblock; detour marked by the fat black line above.



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Improved bus access to Rideau Street: use it or lose it

Jan Meldrum

Since January, bus routes 16X and 5X have been providing partial service to some areas cut off when route 16 was drastically altered and the 316 cancelled last fall. Those changes had seriously affected many local people who depend on the bus to get around. However, the introduction of the 16X and 5X routes was only a partial solution to the problem. In a further attempt to improve bus service for Sandy Hill residents route 16X, which provided twice daily weekday access to Rideau Street at the Rideau Centre, was modified this spring to provide three trips a day from southern Sandy Hill to Rideau Street at Charlotte and then west along Rideau Street to the Rideau Centre.

The new 16X operation has been provided "to offer better connections to more destinations," Pat Scrimgeour, Manager of Transit Service Planning at OC Transpo, wrote to IMAGE. In reply to our question about the route going along Wilbrod Street where there are no stops Mr. Scrimgeour wrote, "It is not physically possible for buses to turn right from heading north on King Edward to head east on Laurier without conflicting with other traffic, so the buses turn right onto Wilbrod, right onto Friel, and then left onto Laurier to make the trip to Charlotte. OC Transpo staff worked together with staff from the City's Public Works department and with the office of Rideau-Vanier Councillor Mathieu Fleury to plan this service improvement."

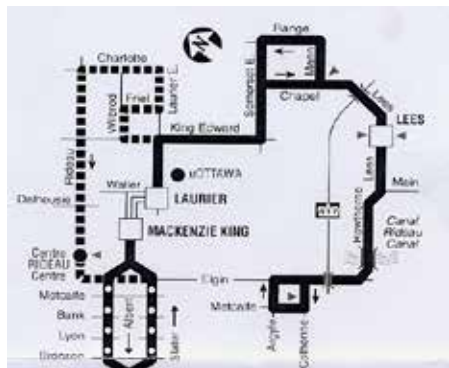
Note that the 16X is a one-way service. It's actually a loop with the return trip from Rideau Street to Sandy Hill via the Rideau Centre, Elgin Street and the Mackenzie King Bridge. (See map.)

Bus users who have comments or suggestions are encouraged to register their ideas with Councillor Fleury at 613-580-2482 or Mathieu.Fleury@ottawa.ca.

We need to get the word out about this route and use it regularly if we want to keep it.

16X to Rideau Street

The 16X route runs three times a day from Lees, following the regular 16 route until Laurier Avenue; it then follows the route indicated by the dotted line. It is a one-way route first north & westbound, then returning to Sandy Hill via Elgin Street and the Mackenzie King Bridge.



Northbound (from Sandy Hill to Rideau Street)
16X RIDEAU CENTRE via Wilbrod, Friel, Charlotte & Rideau

Lees	Rideau/Charlotte	Rideau Centre
09:21	09:33	09:40
11:40	11:52	11:59
13:40	13:52	13:59

Note that the 11:59 & 13:59 buses arriving at the Rideau Centre are resigned as **16X Sandy Hill** and immediately depart on the southbound route back to Lees.

Southbound (from Rideau Street to Sandy Hill) **16X SANDY HILL** via Rideau & Elgin

Rideau/Charlotte	Rideau Centre	Mackenzie King	Mann/Chapel	Lees
11:52**	12:00	12:04	12:15	12:16
13:52**	14:00	14:04	14:15	14:16
15:25	15:32	15:36	15:47	15:48

** these buses are signed **16X Rideau Centre** from Charlotte St. to the Rideau Centre

5X to the General Hospital

The 5X route (dotted line) goes from Chapel/Wiggins to the General Hospital twice a day each way.



Note time changes from the previous schedule printed in IMAGE

5X HOSPITAL via Chapel, Lees, Main & Smyth

Chapel/Wiggins	General Hospital
09:46	10:04
12:16	12:34

5X SANDY HILL via Smyth, Main, Lees & Chapel

General Hospital	Chapel/Wiggins
13:00	13:18
15:00	15:18

Bettye Hyde & full-day kindergarten — from page 1

Mr. Campbell is quick to recognize the quality of service provided by Bettye Hyde but he also points out that the Bettye Hyde program at Rockcliffe did not involve a contract with the School Board but rather a less formal arrangement between the School Council and Bettye Hyde. Nonetheless, he doesn't completely dismiss the possibility that Bettye Hyde could be a player in the extended care program being established by the Board.

In fact, the people at Bettye Hyde had hoped there might be an opening for their program at Viscount Alexander School in Sandy Hill. The School Board is implementing full-day kindergarten at this school next year but is not planning to run an extended care program yet. Alas, it appears that the School Board has denied permission to Bettye Hyde to rent space at the school for next year in spite of interest expressed by some parents and the fact that Bettye Hyde has a well tested program ready to implement. Trustee Campbell suggested that Viscount Alexander is so crowded at this point that there simply isn't room to house any additional programs. It looks like Bettye Hyde is shut out of the in-school extended care programs for at least next year and Viscount Alexander will have no on-site extended care suitable for levels K to 2 next year. Meanwhile Viscount Alexander is high up on the Board's list of schools waiting for additional classrooms. When these new units are added it might be possible for Bettye Hyde to bid on providing the extended care program in that new space. It will largely depend on what the parents want and the decisions of the Board on expanding its own extended care program.

Meantime Bettye Hyde has decided to adjust its program at All Saints' Church to accommodate the new realities. The nursery school hopes to attract some after school clientele from Viscount Alexander and Lady Evelyn schools by dividing the 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. day into three

three-hour sessions — parents being able to choose up to two of the three sessions. Still the School Board has decided that it will not allot any subsidies for needy families in the Bettye Hyde program, preferring to use this money for their own extended care programs. However, the School Board has agreed to run a bus from Viscount Alexander to All Saints' for students wishing to attend the last session at Bettye Hyde School. All the parents of Sandy Hill whose children have benefited from the Bettye Hyde experience are hoping that this excellent nursery school will prosper and continue to play a key role in our neighbourhood for another 65 years.

Further development

The above story was submitted to IMAGE on Thursday, June 7 and represented the situation as we knew it then. On Saturday, June 9 Cindy Mitchell of Bettye Hyde received the following communication from Walter Piovesan, Associate Director of Education at the Ottawa Carleton School Board:

Let me apologize for the lack of communication or clarity on my part. We have made an operational decision that we would be implementing extended day programs in schools where there is a demand and need prior to the implementation of FDK [full day kindergarten] in schools across the district as we will not be entering into any "new" third party agreements. Given that Viscount Alexander is a full day site, if there is a need for an extended day program for the JK-1 students the OCDSB will run the program.

Again, I apologize for any miscommunication.

So Viscount Alexander will get an extended care program next year contrary to what the Board had previously said. It doesn't look like Bettye Hyde will be running the program but perhaps their application spurred the Board to action. We'll likely never know but at least the parents at Viscount Alexander will have a much-needed program in the coming school year.

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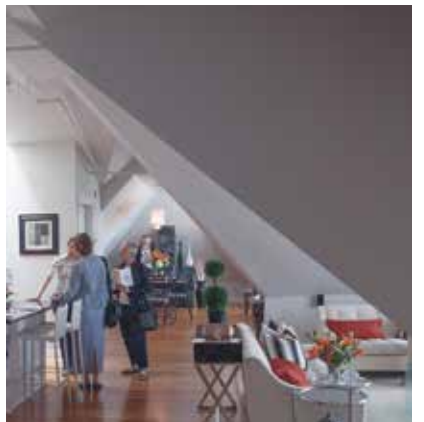
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IODE tour reveals Sandy Hill's charm and character

Paula Kelsall

The Laurentian Chapter of the IODE brought their 51st annual House and Garden Tour to Sandy Hill on June 8-9. For two days sandwich boards with jolly balloons marked stops on the tour, which included eight private homes, two churches, Laurier House, the Ottawa Little Theatre and the Cordon Bleu cooking school. The sidewalks of the neighbourhood were a little busier than usual as groups of visitors in sun hats made their way from stop to stop, poring over their brochures as they walked.

For a Sandy Hill resident, it was a wonderful opportunity to see the details and interiors of buildings we pass by every day. I enjoyed finding out that the stained glass in the Catholic seminary at Daly and Nelson, which I've often admired from the sidewalk, is a colourful and quite contemporary depiction of Canadian birds and animals. Inside Besserer House, 149 Daly, which seems a little beleaguered from the outside as it faces down the traffic on King Edward, it was good to see the front room looking splendid with new coral and gold wallpaper. Anyone who has walked down King Ed-

ward and paused to admire the colourful garden that takes up the entire front yard of Martin Terrace at number 525 would be thrilled to find that the interior is just as beautifully tended and riotously detailed.

It was a wonderful bonus to find experts on hand at many of the houses who were ready to share their knowledge. Besserer House was a particular treat in this regard, as Warner Besserer, great-grandson of Louis-Théodore Besserer, the house's original owner, was on hand along with Michel Prévost, archivist of the University of Ottawa. As the University grew from a seminary constructed on land donated by Besserer, the university and the family have long historical ties, and Prévost had tales to tell about the man who originally owned much of the land in Sandy Hill, and who named several of its streets after his children.

More or less in the centre of the route, two Laurier Avenue landmarks offered a welcome respite to weary walkers. Laurier House, former home to two prime ministers and a worthwhile destination for historically-minded visitors all summer long, was offering tea and vanilla scones from the Scone Witch on its large and shady porch. Tea will be available on the porch at Laurier house every Saturday afternoon from July to August 25, and it adds an enjoyable dimension to a visit to this former home of prime ministers.

Across the street in All Saints' Church, short chamber music performances every half hour provided a sample of the pleasures to come at the Music and Beyond Festival that will begin on July 4. The church's grand piano sounded soulful as Stéphane Lemelin played two nocturnes by Gabriel Fauré, and later in the day the vibrant red banners put up to celebrate Pentecost were the perfect backdrop for some Latin-influenced piano and saxophone pieces.

Like Sandy Hill, the IODE has roots that go deep in Canadian history and is constantly changing to meet the needs of the current day. The organization began in 1900, with a full name that seems so quaint today that it's no longer in common use: the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire. From the beginning, the IODE was a service organization for women, raising money to benefit the whole community. In 1910 they built and

furnished what was to become the Lady Grey Wing of the Royal Ottawa Hospital, and they ran canteens for members of the armed forces during the two world wars. Now they raise funds for causes as diverse as hospices and shelters, supplies for northern schools, and summer camp programs for disadvantaged children.

Dolores Dufresne, who was helping to orient visitors at the Verdier House on Cobourg Street, told me that she enjoys belonging to the Walter Baker chapter of the IODE because she finds that "small potatoes can make a big difference." She likes the fact that the money her group raises is all devoted to very specific needs, such as buying a particular piece of equipment for a women's shelter.

At the end of the second day, David Jeanes of Heritage Ottawa gave a talk in St. Alban's Church about James Mather, a Scottish architect who arrived in Ottawa in 1872 and, over 50 years, oversaw the construction of dozens of buildings, including Laurier House and the Mather House, which is now the home of Le Cordon Bleu. Mather's timing was perfect; Ottawa was a newly-created capital city that was ready for gracious homes and large public buildings. He knew the most prominent Ottawa citizens of the day and was much celebrated and mourned at the time of his death.

Many of the houses, schools and hotels that Mather and his contemporaries designed and built have now disappeared. Those that remain have seen a century and a half of change, and in taking the IODE tour we were constantly reminded of this. Houses that were built for one prosperous family have gone on to shelter embassies, religious communities, and commercial enterprises. They've been abandoned, restored, and divided into apartments. The era of lumber barons and political giants making their homes in the big brick houses of Sandy Hill was relatively brief, but we continue to feel a deep nostalgia for that era even as we go about making the most of these houses for our present needs. Thanks to the formidable event-planning skills of the IODE, the tour offered a wonderful chance to see some of the treasures of our neighbourhood at their best, to learn about the history of the neighbourhood and to enjoy what it has become.

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Pam Verdier (an enthusiastic reader of IMAGE) and her granddaughter Helena welcomed us into their century home on Cobourg St. during the IODE tour.

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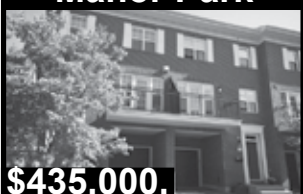
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Restoring Wallis House

Andrex Holdings turned an 1873 hospital into lofts and condos

Betsy Mann

Wallis House, at 589 Rideau Street (at Charlotte), was one of the most popular addresses on the IODE House and Garden Tour this year and stood out as a perfect illustration of the tour's theme: "Something Old, Something New." Developer Sandy Smallwood of Andrex Holdings was on hand to tell visitors something of the building's history. It started as the city's Protestant hospital from 1873 to 1924, later became, in succession, a Catholic seminary, military housing, an armoury, and finally unique condominiums. As we commemorate the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812, it is worth noting that the name "Wallis House" was given to the building in the 1940s in memory of a hero of that war, Sir Provo William Perry Wallis.

"National Defence finally stopped putting money into keeping the old building up; it was vacant and headed for demolition," Sandy Smallwood told tour visitors. "In 1994, Andrex purchased it and the adjoining land between Charlotte and Wurbemburg. We sold off some of the land for townhouses, and an apartment building was built on the eastern part of the lot, but the intention was always to preserve the heritage aspects of the former hospital. I considered a variety of uses, including offices with perhaps some retail on the ground floor, but ultimately the loft concept won out." He pointed out the high ceilings, big windows and balconies, reminders that in the late 19th century light and air were considered essential to patients' recovery.

Forty-two condominium units were eventually built, each one different. "We invited purchasers to design their own space," said Mr. Smallwood. "That decision sparked some wonderful creativity, but it also meant some big headaches for the construction. We lost all economies of scale because nothing was the same from unit to unit. For instance, the electricians faced a new challenge with every apartment." The high ceilings were preserved to maintain the facade with its characteristic windows. Basically, each apartment was one big space, but back from the large front room, some units have a loft level for a bedroom space with the kitchen area tucked underneath.

In October 1995, the condominium units went on the market. Asked how the sales went, Mr. Smallwood recalled the frenzy of buyers, "We expected it to take us more than a year to sell all three phases of the whole project. I had to be somewhere else the weekend the first units went on sale; the first day, I got a call saying that Phase 1 was sold out and they were moving on to sell Phase 2. We didn't even have enough 'sold' stickers. People were standing with their hand on the plan to make sure their unit didn't get sold again!" Initial prices ranged from \$99,000 to \$200,000; all three phases were sold out by the end of that



Photo Bill Blackstone

Heritage renovator Sandy Smallwood answers questions about his mid-90s Wallis House project.

weekend. "All the original buyers more than doubled their investment, and they didn't have to wait long to do it," Mr. Smallwood commented.

Wallis House is not Andrex Holdings' only heritage restoration project in Sandy Hill. The Fleck-Paterson House, Panet House and the Strathcona Apartments are all on its list of accomplishments. In 2007, the Heritage Canada Foundation presented an award to the company as a recognized leader in the redevelopment of landmark buildings. Indeed, Sandy Smallwood has made his career turning "Something Old" into "Something New" and we have all benefited from his vision.

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par Denyse Mulvihill

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On doit dire :

> **Faire une demande d'emploi**, qui signifie « remplir un formulaire formel et explicite, afin d'obtenir un poste précis ou une occupation quelconque » –non pas –appliquer pour un poste, ce qui est un anglicisme.
Ex. – Quand on choisit de travailler dans un domaine précis, il est bon de faire une demande d'emploi par écrit et en bonne et due forme, afin de démontrer un intérêt véritable pour le poste en question.

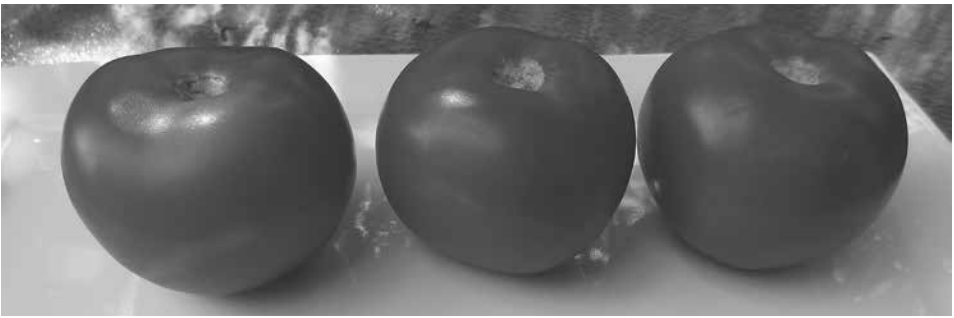
> **Obtenir un permis de conduire**, qui signifie « se procurer une autorisation écrite et officielle émise par la province où l'on habite » - non pas – obtenir une licence, ce qui est un anglicisme, sauf dans le sens de liberté absolue ou de degré universitaire.
Ex. – Comme on le sait, tout un chacun qui s'apprête à conduire un véhicule motorisé, doit d'abord obtenir un permis de conduire provincial et, par la suite, toujours l'avoir avec soi.

> **Partager de bons moments avec quelqu'un**, qui signifie « avoir part à quelque chose en même temps que d'autres, communiquer mutuellement des idées, des opinions, des sentiments » - non pas – partager du bon temps, ce qui est un anglicisme.
Ex. – Quand ces amies de longue date se revoient, même après de longues années d'absences, elles savent partager ensemble de bons moments remplis de souvenirs d'enfance et d'adolescence.

> **Échanger des idées avec d'autres**, qui signifie « donner, recevoir et commenter des opinions, des pensées lesquelles passent de l'un à l'autre » - non pas – échanger (sans objet direct, ce verbe ne s'emploie pas en français).
Ex. – Lors de leur reunion mensuelle, les membres de la Direction ont échangé leurs opinions ainsi que leur vision et leur sentiment sur un projet d'expansion proposé par les uns et refuté par les autres.

> **Quitter quelqu'un ou un lieu**, qui signifie « laisser quelqu'un, abandonner quelqu'un ou un endroit, et tout simplement partir » - non pas – quitter (sans objet direct, ce verbe ne s'emploie pas en français).
Ex. – Après avoir tenu tête à son employeur qui faisait preuve de malhonnêteté, le comptable a décidé de quitter son emploi sur-le-champ sans autre forme de procès ni sans inquiétude sur son avenir.

> **Faire une enquête**, qui signifie « procéder à une recherche méthodique sur un fait pour en déterminer les circonstances, ou sur la valeur d'un projet en voie de réalisation » - non pas – faire une investigation, qui signifie « faire un scrutage approfondi réservé à la science et à l'histoire. »
Ex. – Avant d'octroyer sans parti pris, un contrat de construction à une firme plutôt qu'à une autre, les responsables des travaux de voirie de la ville se doivent de faire une enquête analytique et comparative sur les compagnies qui soumettent une offre, afin de bien vérifier la solvabilité de chacune.



Splendours of summer — in winter

Dodi Newman

A plethora of local produce will appear in our markets between now and October, when the next issue of IMAGE will appear. In that multitude, there are three that, for me, are the essence of summer: tomatoes, red peppers and, for dessert, wild blueberries from Val d'Or. Between late August and September all of them will be at their best and cheapest, so enjoy them fresh in the summer and get ready to bring their deeply satisfying flavours and colours into winter.

Tomatoes are the obvious star - fresh or frozen, they are always good. To move them into winter, almost undiminished in flavour and colour, freeze them raw. First you wash and dry as many as you like, then core them and place the whole tomatoes in plastic freezer bags and freeze them - what could be quicker? To peel them, run warm water over the frozen tomatoes and the skin will slip right off.

Or, wash and quarter the tomatoes, boil them in their own juice until they are very soft, pass them through a food mill, bring the strained tomato purée back to a boil, add basil leaves or chopped onions, sautéed in olive oil, cool, and freeze in freezer bags. The purée lets you make tomato-based sauces with a really fresh taste in no time - so much better than canned tomatoes. The basil-flavoured purée also makes the best tomato soup: per serving, bring 1 cup of purée to the boil, add salt to taste. Serve hot, drizzled with a spiral of heavy cream on top, or cold with a dollop of sour cream in the centre.

Hot or sweet red peppers freeze very

well. Grill them on a hot BBQ, turning them often, until they are blackened all over. Place the hot peppers in a paper bag, fold the top of the bag over so the steam cannot escape, and let them sit for 30 minutes or so. Remove their skins, stems and seeds, and let them cool. Then wrap them in plastic wrap - individually or in multiples - and freeze the little packages in a tightly sealed bag.

Peppers go well with tomatoes and onions. You could purée a few sweet peppers and add them to the tomato purée soup for that extra zing. Or chop one or two hot peppers and add them to spaghetti sauce. I love to use both as a filling for an omelette: cut three or four frozen sweet and one or two hot peppers crosswise into ¼" strips, fry them in olive oil with an onion cut into thin wedges, some garlic, a few cumin seeds and salt and pepper. Add fresh basil leaves, fold into the omelette and, voilà, summer on a plate in coldest January.

Easiest of all to bring into winter are wild blueberries. Buy them in two-quart wooden baskets (not cardboard), remove the handle, slide the basket, blueberries and all, into a freezer bag, remove as much air as you can, then pop it in the freezer. Surprisingly, the blueberries will not stick together and you can remove as many or as few as you like - a trick I learned from a vendor at the Parkdale Market. Sprinkle the frozen berries on your cereal; mix frozen blueberries into plain, full-fat yogurt, using a hand-held blender, add honey if you like - it's like healthy ice-cream; or follow this recipe for the best-ever blueberry cobbler: <http://markbittman.com/blueberry-cobbler>.

Indie Coffee Passport For 14 dollars, this card will get you a sample beverage (up to \$4.50 value) at each of 12 independent coffee shops in Ottawa, including Sandy Hill's own T.A.N. Coffee at 317 Wilbrod St. You can pick up your passport at T.A.N., or online at indiecoffeepassport.com, and use it until November 30.

Marc's Mags, 420 Rideau St. The neighbourhood magazine stand now has a smoothie bar in its front window, and it's well worth stopping by on a hot day for a cool treat. There are all kinds of healthy, muscle building, stress-busting combinations to choose from, but there's also good old frozen fruit, mixed up with a choice of ice cream or frozen yogurt and garnished with fresh garden mint. Watermelon and mango with mint is a wonderful combination!

Main St. Farmers' Market, 223 Main St. Now going full force in the St. Paul University parking lot every Saturday from 9:00-2:00, this market features vendors who come from within 100 miles of Old Ottawa East. It's a great place to buy lunch on a sunny day while stocking up on groceries for the week ahead.

Nini's Panini Bar, 307 Rideau Street, inside the Union Smoke Shop. Hurrying to work one morning and knowing it was a day when I'd have to lunch at my desk, I stopped by Nini's for a sandwich to go. For \$5.00, I got the Figitious Wrap, a combination of greens, figs, apricots, pears, crumbled goat cheese and sugared pecans. Nutty arugula mixed with sweet bites of figs in a whole-wheat wrap made for an unexpectedly delicious mid-day meal. Open until 6:00 p.m. from Monday to Saturday.



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

Ever Afters, 319 Rideau St. The restaurant in the Days Inn at Rideau and King Edward has had a cozy renovation, and is now sporting a 6-page menu of festive non-alcoholic beverages, along with breakfasts, desserts and a few main courses. Iced green tea with pomegranate syrup was beautiful to look at and a refreshing accompaniment to curry noodles with chicken. After a movie at the ByTowne, consider stopping by for a piece of cake and something fancy to sip.

Govinda's, 212 Somerset St. East This Hare Krishna-run neighbourhood landmark has been serving vegan food at unbeatable prices for 30 years. The buffet of salad, vegetable curries and dessert is open for dinner from 5:00-8:00, Monday to Friday. Supper will set you back \$5.00 for students, \$7.00 for everyone else.

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Living in Sandy Hill—a Malian student's experience

Karen Bays

It was June 2008 when Soumaila Coulibaly arrived in Ottawa after a long flight from Mali in West Africa. He was finally living his dream of getting a good education at a Western university. Having heard about Canada from Canadian aid workers, travellers, and the internet, he leapt at the opportunity to attend the University of Ottawa when a Canadian family offered him a room and board. Admission to the university's Tefler School of Management was not difficult but obtaining a student visa to study in Canada took almost a year. Thanks to support from Stephen Lewis and our Member of Parliament, the Hon. Mauril Bélanger, immigration reconsidered earlier rejection decisions and provided him with a visa to study here. That was the start of his adventure in both academia and everyday living in our Sandy Hill community.

Having grown up in the town of Kayes (known as the hottest town in Africa), Ottawa was quite a change from the world he had known. "I expected Ottawa to be big and dangerous - similar to other capital cities I have visited in West Africa but was pleasantly surprised to find it such a calm, clean, and safe city," he explains.

But, as he settled in, he realized he had a lot of learning to do and adjustments to be made in everyday living. For example, Mali has very little infrastructure for garbage management and villages, towns, and cities are littered with refuse. He found our garbage system quite complex but soon mastered the sorting requirements and pick up schedule. He was also amazed to see blue fruit! (Blueberries) "Fruit should not be blue," he would proclaim but now admits, almost four years later, that he has learned to like blueberries and appreciates their health benefits. It did not take him long to learn about coffee makers, ice machines in refrigerator freezers, gas BBQs, and washing machines. He learned the hard way, to never, never put liquid hand dishwashing soap into the dishwasher.

After four years of post-secondary learning here, Soumaila reflects on his education and the culture of the univer-

sity. Although he has taken his course work very seriously and has worked hard, he notes that some of his fellow students do not make the same effort and expect to get through their courses without making the same investment. He also notes that it is somewhat ironic to study good management, transparency, and organizational leadership in his classes at an institution that needs to work harder in those areas.

Currently, Mali is in political upheaval. A revolt earlier this spring has led to struggles between various factions and the possible separation of the northern desert area into another country based on Sharia law. Soumaila fears this will be a great set-back for everyone. Previously, Mali was a leader in West Africa in democracy, equality for women, and health services. But with the current conflict, resources for health, education, and food will likely be diverted and the progress of the last decade lost. Soumaila notes that in Mali the people could not vote this year, (the spring election was cancelled) but in Canada where elections are a regular occurrence, we often get less than 60% of the population voting. "I do not understand why so many people here do not vote. It is so important," he explains.

Soumaila is planning to write a book based on his Canadian experience to help other immigrants to Canada adjust and understand our system. "I want to tell others that first they need to learn patience. Patience is key to the Canadian process," he advises. From his perspective, procedures are part of our way of getting things done and if people try to push the process, they are met with denial or resistance. Soumaila feels this is difficult for many newcomers to understand because in their cultures it works differently. He hopes a book based on his learning will not only help those arriving to study or live in Canada but also make the Canadian system more welcoming and efficient for those new to our communities.

Soumaila is very thankful and fortunate to have had the opportunity to live and study here. Sandy Hill has been a great place to live. He has enjoyed going to different places of worship to find out about various religions; he appreciates our parks and public spaces

and also the freedom and security our community has offered. He has two more courses to complete before obtaining his degree in business and management. He hopes to stay on a bit longer to have some professional work experience in his field before returning to Mali and putting into practice what he has learned to help his country and its citizens.

When asked what he will miss when he returns home he paused for awhile and then noted that he will miss the friends he has made here, Maxwell House coffee, and CMT (Country Music Television.) And while he coped well with our winters, he admits that they will not be missed.

Soumaila will return to Mali with stories to tell and knowledge to share but he will be missed by parts of our community. He has been a volunteer with the Walking School Bus to Viscount Alexander School for three years and was always ready to lend a hand where needed both at the university and in the neighbourhood with a smile and friendly chatter. He will leave behind many things but perhaps most important is a reminder that we live in a very special place and enjoy opportunities many in other parts of the world will never experience.



Soumaila Coulibaly, soon to be a businessman in Mali, has lived on Sweetland Ave. for the past four years.


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Ruweida Shire wins Mayor's Award

Mayor Jim Watson and Councillor Mathieu Fleury presented Sandy Hill resident Ruweida Shire with a prestigious Mayor's City Builder Award at a recent council meeting.

Ruweida runs a homework club for the young residents of the Strathcona Heights area. It is a very well attended program which she runs as a volunteer on weekdays. She coordinates the volunteers that help with the various subjects and has managed to secure a number of U of O students from the teaching program to come in and help out. She also runs a full-day summer camp for the kids in July and August.

This citation sums up Ruweida's accomplishments: "Ruweida is a tireless advocate for the youth of Strathcona Heights and puts in countless volunteer hours to provide after school programming at no cost to the children in that neighbourhood. She is an inspiration and a role model for our community. A true example of investing in our future through our youth."

Photo Claire MacDonald

Ottawa Carleton District School Board Trustee Report

Update on Extended Day Care at Viscount Alexander Public School

At the very moment of filing this column, I have been informed by our staff that they intend to proceed with providing extended before/after-school care at Viscount Alexander Public School, complementing our introduction of all-day kindergarten at that site. Good news for Viscount, making it a lucky school and one of the few we will be expanding to next year.

Readers may recall that all-day kindergarten is a publicly paid provincial initiative slowly unrolling into all of our primary grades schools, site by site, over the next couple of years. It is taught jointly by a teacher and a trained Early Childhood Educator (ECE). The before/after extended care program is also a provincial initiative and is an optional, essentially fee-paying, board-run program using the same ECE staff children become used to in their daytime kinder class, thereby providing seamless and integrated all-day care. Working out subsidies for spots in this program as well is moving forward in discussions with the Province and City, but will depend ultimately on what funding is provided to us.

In any event, it is great news that Viscount might enjoy this program and that Sandy Hill families will have yet another local care option. Interested families should apply to the school.

Budget and Negotiations

The staff-recommended budget for next year came out and was passed with not much more than a murmur. It called for a steady state spend. However, the apparent calm of a steady state budget is a little misleading.

The steady state budget relies on the use of \$6.5m of reserves to fund it. Projections show a larger funding weight falling on school board shoulders maybe the year after next as the Province pursues deficit elimination. One set of questions I raised was about our lack of multi-year planning with respect to reserves. I expect to pursue these questions in the months to come.

Another key element of the steady state budget is that it makes no provision for salary increases (either cost-of-living or seniority increases) as per provincial funding announcements—aligned with their current negotiating stance on these big dollar items. All Board labour groups' collective agreements open up this September 1st.

Boards of course are the actual collective agreement signatories and detailed negotiators, and there is always a lot more to negotiate than basic overall funding. All 72 boards in Ontario are in the same boat re the money though, which means that this is a provincial problem.

If you have a suggestion or concern, or would like to be added to my e-newsletter list, please contact me. rob@ocdsbzone9.ca 613 323-7803



Rob Campbell, Trustee
Ottawa-Carleton District School Board

Bettye Hyde spring fair was a sweet spectacle

The Sandy Hill Spring Fair presented by Bettye Hyde Co-operative Nursery School was a great success despite a very rainy day! In addition to a little family yoga and a wide array of children's games, the approximately 300 fair goers who attended enjoyed performances by: the Ottawa Stilt Union, Ottawa Angola Capoeira, Lets Talk Science Chemistry Magic Show, Music by Matt from Hearts and Mines, Patrick Glemaud on drums, spoken word by Jamaal Rogers, and music by the Neil Sealy Trio. Because of the inclement weather, the entire event was held inside Bate Hall at All Saints' Church.

For the first time, Bettye Hyde hosted an Alumni Café at the event where past students and parents came to see old photos and hug their favourite teachers, Cindy Mitchell, Lisa Lajoie, and Janet Leblanc (Janet disguised throughout the day as the lollipop lady!) Donations were collected for an alumni scholarship which will allow children to attend the school, who otherwise could not afford to participate in the program.

Bettye Hyde would like to thank the following businesses for their contributions: TAN Coffee, Sandy Hill Lounge & Grill, Loblaws (on Rideau), Metro (on Rideau), Laurier Office Mart, OttawaKiosk, Odyssey Theatre, and Camino. Also a big thank you to all the Bettye Hyde parents and friends who volunteered their time, as well as to Fiona Sante for her help and advice bringing nearly 20 incredible artists and crafters to the fair and to Gaye Taylor for organizing the alumni at the event.

We hope to see you all next year for a burger and some homemade baking at the Sandy Hill Spring Fair. — Leanne Moussa



Élise Gauthier of the Ottawa Stilt Union towered over parents and children.



Photos
Bill Blackstone

Teachers Janet Leblanc and Lisa Lajoie greeted students and alumni with smiles and candy.

News from Viscount Alexander Public School

Michael Barnes

Moving ahead

Naturally, the end of the school year is a season of change. The last day of classes is June 28th and then the summer vacation begins! As our grade six graduating class moves on to a new school in the fall, we trust that each and every student will have good memories of their friends and teachers at Viscount. We wish every student moving ahead all best in their future. You will be missed!

Director's citation

Viscount Alexander is very proud to announce that Janet Thomas, our grade 2/3 teacher, has been selected as a recipient of the OCDSB Director's Citation for her leadership and dedication to Environmental and English Second Language Education, both at school and in the community.

School grounds get greener

A special thank you goes out to Ottawa Reads and their volunteers from Bell Canada who have done a wonderful job in the school's front yard. The enlarged garden now serves as a learning centre and enhances the curb appeal of the school.

Our basketball teams compete

Congratulations to our Boys and Girls basketball teams and their coaches, Mr Kubusheskie, Mrs. Welyhorski, and Monsieur Hubert who participated at the recent city championships. The school is proud of both their accomplishments and their sportsmanlike attitude.

Golden Flip Flop Award

The week of the May 14th to 18th the school completed a travel survey to see how kids get to and from school. Mrs. Fulford's grade 5/6 class won the Golden Flip Flop Award with the most walkers/bikers. Well done!

Above the speed limit, again?

Do the cars on Mann Avenue speed or not? Casual observation seems to support this belief. To find out scientifically, the school asked Councillor Mathieu Fleury to arrange for a speed reader on Mann Ave. to run a test on vehicle speed in the school day reduced speed zone. It was put up on May 2 for one day. The school zone speed limit is 40km/hr. during school hours. Between 7:00 and 9:30 a.m., of the 419 cars that passed, 303 or 72% were above the speed limit. In the afternoon between 2:00 and 5:00 p.m., 460 cars went by and 364 or 79% exceeded the speed limit. The top speed recorded was 73 kilometres per hour. The next step is for the students to write to the City of Ottawa to encourage enforcement of the speed limit in this school zone. Efforts will also be made to find solutions that would get drivers to slow down. We hope that these efforts will make the journey from school to home and vice versa a safer one.

Clean the Capital

Action Sandy Hill sent out letters to local businesses asking them to pitch in to help clean up our neighbourhood on May 5 as a part of Cleaning the Capital campaign. Partnering with ASH, Mrs. Contant's Grade 3/4 class also wrote letters to local businesses giving suggestions and talking about the environment. Thanks to Mrs. Contant and her students for the wonderful letters!

With an education in mind!

Viscount Alexander offers junior kindergarten to grade six for the regular English program. Early French Immersion runs from Senior Kindergarten to Grade three, with one additional grade being added each school year up to grade six. A great little community school welcomes you and to find out more just call the school office at 613-239-2213 and arrange a visit.



Photo Bill Blackstone

Beth Poaps and Gayle Singer have helped the school thrive in recent years.

Viscount's dynamic duo set to retire

Our school, students, parents, and School Council have been blessed to have had Mrs. Gayle Singer as our Principal and Mrs. Beth Poaps as Office Administrator. They both are retiring at the end of this school year and we will truly miss them.

Beth Poaps

Beth has been an administrator with the Board for 21 years. Thankfully she has spent the past 15 years at Viscount. With her meticulous accounting of the budget and strong organizational skills Beth is responsible for all the administrative details at our school. She is always there to liaise with parents and volunteers, has positive customer service skills, a great sense of humour and is able to multi task like no other!

I asked one staff member how she would describe Beth; her reply was, "She is a dream to work with: dedicated, responsible, reliable, efficient, tactful, cheerful and fun."

Viscount will miss you a lot Beth. We are glad to know you have lots of retirement plans. And if by any chance you should ever bake too many muffins you know where we are so none go to waste!

Gayle Singer

Gayle's career in education spans 42 years. She started as a Physical Education specialist and Special Education specialist and then served as a principal for 15 years. This year marks her fourth year at Viscount.

How can you describe Gayle and what she brings to school everyday? To start with, she is very supportive of her staff and students. She provided her students with a positive, safe and caring environment. Gayle is also a strong proponent of community schools and in particular small schools. She believes that, at a school in which all staff members feel they play a key role and know the name and background of every student in the school, the result can only be happy children who feel safe, included and successful.

Viscount is a happy, thriving and growing school and much credit for this goes to Gayle Singer. She is endowed with a great sense of humour; her laugh can be heard all over the school! We are going to miss her enthusiastic spirit!

Thank you Beth and Gayle! These two wonderful people have made a large and very meaningful difference in the lives of many students and their families over many years.

Goodness is not dead

Janet Thomas

This is a “good news” story about twenty needy children, two good men, and thousands of Ottawans who generously donate their time and money to charity.

When twenty inner-city children at Viscount Alexander Public School needed bicycles to ride during the summer-time, the school approached the Kiwanis Club of Bytown for funds, and were generously granted enough money to purchase four new bikes. However, four were not enough. Committed to sponsoring healthy, active outdoor play, the school approached several major sports stores, but help was refused.

Then the school spoke with Paul Wylie of Cycle Salvations on Bronson Ave. When he heard about kids who had no bikes, and the limited funds available, he didn't hesitate. Twenty reconditioned bikes were delivered to the school, and Paul personally fitted them with kick stands to boot!

However, children need helmets, locks, and safety lessons as well. That's when a teacher went to Kundstadt Sports. Bank Street was dug up and it was obvious that stores were having a difficult time; however, when Eric Kundstadt heard about bikeless kids and the lack of funds, his only words were “It's a good project. We'll make it happen.” Twenty helmets and locks were delivered, and Eric sent staff to the school to help with a Bike Safety Rodeo.

This year again, Viscount Alexander School is hosting a Bike Rodeo. Older students are passing on their too-small bikes to younger students, and the school is once more looking for ways to provide bicycles for kids. Again the Kiwanis Club of Bytown has generously donated some funds. Again Paul Wylie of Cycle Salvations says, “Count us in.” Again Eric Kundstadt says Kundstadt Sports will “do what it takes to make it happen.” And the school received funding from the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre to pay for the Ottawa Safety Council to run the Bike Rodeo.

This good news story would not be possible without the behind-the-scenes support of thousands of Ottawans who give to our charitable organizations. Volunteers at the Kiwanis Club of Bytown work hard to raise funds for worthy projects, and have been exceptionally supportive of inner-city schools. Happily, this year the base cost of the helmets and locks has been covered by a grant from the Education Foundation, which is funded through the United Way Campaign. Thanks also go to Habitat for Humanity who find, collect, and donate used bikes to Cycle Salvations for reconditioning, and to Ottawa Community Housing who provide free rental space to house bikes for children.

Without the can-do attitude of good people, the generosity of the community at large, and the support of charitable organizations, many a kid would spend their summer sitting chin-in-hand watching the world go by.

Janet Thomas is a teacher at Viscount Alexander Public School

Sandy Hill resident wins Brian Doyle writing contest

Cristine Elrick

Canadian author and graduate of York Street Public School, Brian Doyle created a Literary Arts award at his alma mater several years ago. It is presented to a Grade 8 graduate at the graduation ceremony. This year, because of the school's 90th anniversary, the contest was expanded and two awards were given, one for junior students, and one for intermediate students. All students were asked to write on a single theme: Community. Brian Doyle collected the essays, stories, or poems and chose the winners. He presented the intermediate prize at York Street's 90th Anniversary Ceremony to Ethan McKinley-Young, a graduate of Viscount Alexander School, for his simple and true story which follows.



Ethan McKinley-Young with mentor Brian Doyle.

A New School: A New Community

by Ethan McKinley-Young

I spent my first 6 grades at a small school with a tight-knit community. In the fall of 2011, I changed to York Street School for grade 7. I was put in Mr. McNicol's grade 7/8 class. This made me very happy because my best friend Max was in the same class as me. Since Max is a year ahead of me, I hadn't seen him since grade 5. There was also a new boy from Arkansas in my class. His name is Christian and he is also in grade 8.

Our teacher is crazy about running. He runs everywhere. He was the coach of the cross country team. Max, Christian and I decided to join the team. We trained for weeks. The day of the meet, we were all excited. The meet was being held at Terry Fox Public School.

I ran my race first because I'm in grade 7. After my race, I found a spot to watch

my teammates. When it came time for the grade 8 boys' race, I spotted Max and Christian. When the gun fired, they started running side by side. As they went into the woods, they were in the middle of the pack.

At the end of the course, you run out of the woods, up a small hill, and then it's about 100m across a field to the finish line. After about half of the runners went by, Christian came out of the woods, up the hill and then stopped. We all started yelling at him to keep going, including the coaches. Christian just stood there, staring back into the woods, we were all confused. After a couple of minutes, he started making beckoning gestures with his arms. Max, who had stopped with a cramp in his leg, appeared running out of the woods. He ran up the hill and met Christian. My two friends ran across the field and over the finish line together. It was the nicest thing I had ever seen.

I still miss the tight-knit community of my old school, but at that cross country meet, I was proud to be wearing my York Street School jersey and proud to be part



Photo Christine Aubry

Nouveau Pavillon Jardin et Maternelle de l'Ecole élémentaire publique Francojeunesse sur le rue Wilbrod.

L'année scolaire 2011-2012 tire déjà à sa fin, et quelle belle année ce fut à Francojeunesse!

Christine Aubry

En août, les élèves furent chaleureusement accueillis par leur nouvelle directrice, Mme Chantal Leclerc, sous le thème annuel SAFARI-FRANCO. Ce fut aussi la première rentrée scolaire au nouveau pavillon maternelle-jardin de la rue Wilbrod (inauguré en février 2011), où les petits ont maintenant une belle nouvelle structure de jeux et où l'embellissement des locaux continue grâce aux efforts des enseignant(e)s, des parents et du Franconseil.

Les activités spéciales ont continué tout au long de l'année avec divers événements et ateliers à l'occasion de, entre autres, la Semaine de prévention à l'intimidation, la Semaine de la diversité culturelle, la Journée de la Terre et de l'environnement, la Semaine de la Francophonie, sans oublier la Journée des droits de l'enfant.

Francojeunesse s'est aussi illustrée cette année quant à ses performances artistiques, notamment via de nombreux concerts de musique donnés aux parents pour le temps des fêtes et pour la fin de l'année scolaire, mais également avec un projet de collaboration fait avec la Faculté d'éducation de l'Université d'Ottawa et qui a amené tous les élèves de 6ième à participer à la création du spectacle musical « Echec et Mat » présenté à l'école secondaire publique De La Salle en mars dernier.

De plus, depuis septembre 2011, Francojeunesse fait maintenant partie du réseau ISO 14000 et s'emploie à développer sa conscience environnementale à travers de nombreux projets et petits gestes. Les élèves de 6ième sont responsables d'un projet pilote environnemental pour mettre à l'essai le programme ISO_Ecole, qui permettra à l'école d'obtenir une certification Ecole Verte dans au moins trois ans.

Ce qui n'a pas changé, par contre, c'est que les élèves et le personnel enseignant

de Franco continuent à démontrer leur excellence à tout point de vue. Du côté académique, nos élèves de 3ième et de 6ième année ont obtenu encore une fois d'excellents résultats lors des tests de l'O.Q.R.E.

Le volet sportif prédomine également à Francojeunesse. Nos élèves sont revenus gagnants de plusieurs compétitions au sein du CEPEO: courses de fond; volley-ball lancé (garçons gagnants, et filles arrivées en finale); quilles suédoises (filles gagnantes, et garçons en 3ième place); inter-muraux; course de relais “Rolling Rampage” (2ième et 5ième positions).

De plus, l'esprit communautaire et la générosité de nos élèves envers autrui se sont encore manifestés à Franco cette année, lorsque les élèves ont amasser 2 150 \$ à l'occasion de la course de fond Terry Fox, et 8 600 \$ lors de la collecte de fonds UNICEF!

Malheureusement, la communauté de Franco fut secouée par la triste nouvelle du décès de Mme Marie Dodrige, enseignante de 1ère/2ième année, en mars dernier. Les parents, les enseignants, l'équipe de la Direction et le Conseil se sont mobilisés pour apporter leur soutien aux enfants et commémorer cette enseignante tant appréciée à Francojeunesse et dans les autres écoles où elle a oeuvré depuis plus de quinze ans.

En juin, les élèves diront au revoir à Mme Diane Sandre, nommée directrice à l'école Le Prélude. Franco accueillera alors deux nouvelles directrices adjointes à la fin août : Mme Cécile Catalfo et Mme Caroline Johnston. Des changements ont aussi été effectués à la garderie Brin d'herbe, puisque M. Michel Laflamme a quitté Brin d'herbe le 13 avril 2012 après 25 ans de service et Mme Marie-Ange Martel Long a pris la relève en tant que directrice.

Avant de se dire au revoir et bonnes vacances, Francojeunesse avait célébré cette belle année 2011-2012 lors du pique-nique annuel au parc Strathcona.

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Cleaning the Capital More than a single day's effort

Claire MacDonald

A grade four student from Viscount Alexander Public School summed it up nicely, "I love Sandy Hill because it's our home. from a girl who is helping you and the Earth, Jade."

Many people showed up on May 5 to help clean Strathcona and Sandy Hill Parks as well as other areas of our neighbourhood, from young to experienced garbage pickers, Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders and Scouts. Some volunteers started early even before May 5 by cleaning the Strathcona Park stairs descending from the fountain and some finished tasks along the river and on streets. In addition to the cleaning here are some long-term results:

- The cabana at the Strathcona Park wading pool got painted thanks to Rob Sinclair and Neala. Graffiti gone.
- University of Ottawa student Charlie Anderson and her friend from Orleans, Sadie Okoko, helped remove graffiti on streets with an anti-graffiti kit provided by the City.
- A total of 22 garbage bins have been accounted for in Strathcona Park - someone kept count and made sure that all were restored to the park after the winter months. There was a bit of a delay, bins having been removed because of demonstrations in front of the Congolese Embassy on Range Road. But now we have a full complement thanks to the watchful eye of two volunteers.
- Our Coucillor Mathieu Fleury inspected a dumping site at Dutchy's Hole Park on Cleaning the Capital day. He came with gloves in hand. He also initiated a further clean up with Ottawa Community Housing; there was just too much stuff for Cleaning the Capital day. In addition, the city will plant evergreens to ring the garbage area at the top end of Strathcona Heights where their garbage bins are stored as well as some added greenery to help keep feet on pathways leading to the park. The snow dump that was causing a lot of garbage accumulation at the base of the hill will be limited to a specified location so salt and grit will be contained as well as the debris. Thanks to all who



Rob and Neala Sinclair paint the cabana by the wading pool in Strathcona Park.

picked up windshield wipers, compressors, a rather scary butcher knife, and other assortments along that area on May 5. It took guts!

• University of Ottawa's Sustainability department organized a city-wide e-waste collection at the Sandy Hill Arena. They had huge numbers of volunteers involved from the Groupe Katimavik, coordinated by Brigitte Morin and Jonathan Rausseo on behalf of the university.

• Two plantings have occurred on Laurier East just after the Nelson intersection on both sides of the street. Thank you to Barbara Cuerden who donated the plants, time and energy for transforming two squares of emptiness into green. It is hoped the green will discourage the accumulation of cigarette butts and garbage along that corridor. One can dream. And best to dream in colour, the colour being green as in ground cover.

• Businesses and embassies were invited to join by cleaning up around their properties. Mary Nash, Cristine Erlick and daughter Jade and Alex MacDonald all helped get the word out to approximately 35 businesses and about 30 embassies or consular offices.



Sandy Hill Community Garden, and beyond...

After a warm May and a good deal of rain this spring, the community garden near Dutchy's Hole is greening up nicely. New plot cultivators are discovering the heartbreak of sharing space with rabbits and squirrels, and trying out remedies like chicken wire and chili powder sprinkled around the bean plants. There are happy discoveries too, like the single strawberry plant and the healthy clump of cilantro that a previous gardener left behind.

The garden is fully booked for this summer, but volunteers are welcome to help with general maintenance and with plots dedicated to growing produce for the Food Bank and to demonstrating water conservation techniques with local plants. If you'd like to know more or to put yourself on the waiting list for a plot for next year, contact sandyhillcommunitygarden@gmail.com — Paula Kelsall



Bicycles sought for the Strathcona Heights Homework Club

Ruwaida Shire who has inspired and manages the Strathcona Heights Homework Club, is pictured here with two donated bikes at the Ottawa Housing complex on Chapel. She knows exactly who can make good use of them in her varied and close knit community. If you have a bicycle or other items which you think may be of use to their program please contact Action Sandy Hill at info@ash-acsc.ca or leave ASH a message at the Sandy Hill Community Centre. The homework club extends to summertime activities so all sorts of equipment are welcome. Participating children range in age from 4 to 18 years. Approximately 197 children are enrolled in the after school segment which takes place in one big room on site. Numbers of kids alternate through the evenings during the week to ensure everyone gets individual attention. Pencils and paper also welcome. If you think they need it, they probably can make good use of your donation! — Claire MacDonald

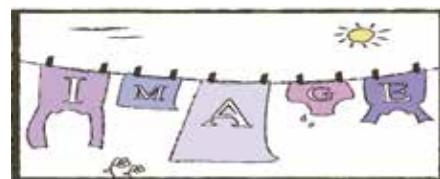


THANK YOU!

150th Sandy Hill Scouts
12th Ottawa Sparks / Brownies / Guides / Pathfinder Unit
François Bregba
Rob Sinclair and Neala Sinclair
Ingela Stromberg
Mary Nash
Cristine Erlick and her daughter
Mrs. Contant's grade 3-4 class
at Viscount Alexander
Charlie Anderson
Sadie Okoko
Dohame Gogve
Kathy and Kendall Gibbons
Nyeff and Nira Shearer
Marcia George, Nic, Nyah and Niobe Clarke
Leanne Moussa and Masood Qureshi,
Sabir Qureshi, Amin qureshi and
Noor Qureshi
Jane McNamara and Andrew Cockburn

Nicole Girard
Frithjob and Kaja Lutscher
Jacob Weber
Diane Whalen
Eric Crighton, Elie and Mael
Claire, Alex and Iain MacDonald
École publique Francojeunesse
Viscount Alexander Public School
Bettye Hyde Nursery School
Christopher Collmorgen
Mathieu Fleury
Strathcona Heights Community
Anne Roland
Brian Waters
The Youville Centre on Mann
E-waste Collection at the Arena:
Office of Campus Sustainability at the University of Ottawa:
Brigitte Morin, Waste Diversion
Jonathan Rausseo, Campus Sustainability
Groupe Katimavik Vanier, Ottawa, Gatineau
And others who acted independently to help keep our neighbourhood looking good !

Adopt-a-Park / Adoptez un parc
Organized by / Organisé par: 150th Sandy Hill Scouts and Action Sandy Hill (ASH) / Action Côte-de-Sable (ACS)



BULLETIN BOARD

Wanted to rent –Aug 6-17

Mature woman looking for a quiet, smoke-free place to house-sit or room to rent in August (6th to the 17th). Must be walking distance to Ottawa U with access to a kitchen. Please contact Jean-Charles LeGal-Leblanc (trip organiser) if interested. (819) 772-8559; jclegalleblanc@gmail.com

Dame mature à la recherche d'un logis tranquille et non-fumeur pour deux semaines au mois d'août (du 6 au 17). Elle devra pouvoir marcher à l'Université d'Ottawa et avoir accès à une cuisine. Communiquez avec Jean-Charles LeGal-Leblanc (organisateur de son séjour) si vous êtes intéressé de l'accueillir. (819) 772-8559 jclegalleblanc@gmail.com. Merci !

Café gratuit et livraison gratuite des médicaments prescrits - Le café sera offert par Achille Konga et son équipe à la Pharmacie Rideau lors du réaménagement de la rue Rideau en juillet. La livraison des médicaments prescrits continuera à être offerte gratuitement.

"Double Double" book launching with Sandy Hill authors Seymour Mayne and Cyril Dabydeen at Collected Works bookstore, 1242 Wellington Street West, 2:30 p.m., Sunday, September 9. Seymour Mayne: *The Old Blue Couch and Other Stories* (Ronald P. Frye & Co.); *Ricochet: Word Sonnets/Sonnets d'un mot* (U. of Ottawa Press)

Cyril Dabydeen: *Short Stories* (Caribbean Press/University of Warwick); *Beyond Sangre Grande: Caribbean Writing Today* (TSAR Publications)

Street party on Blackburn/Fête des voisins sur Blackburn. Attention Blackburn Avenue residents! A street party is proposed for Saturday, September 22, from 5 – 9 p.m. Blackburn serait fermé entre Osgoode et Somerset E. de 17 h à 21 h le samedi 22 septembre pour une fête entre voisins. Questions? Concerns? Offers of assistance? Please contact Christine at 613-230-9461 or aubitchen@me.com. We also welcome calls from local businesses that would like to sponsor the party.

The One World Film Festival presents: The 4th Annual Tea in the Garden Fundraiser, Sunday, July 8, 2012, 2 -5 p.m. Enjoy a variety of teas and delectable desserts. All proceeds will go to support the 23rd Annual One World Film Festival. 130 Renfrew Avenue at Bronson, in the Glebe, Tickets: \$10 at the door. Advance tickets are \$8 (by July 7) and are available by contacting lrajabalan@gmail.com or mlsromano@yahoo.ca .

The 23rd Annual One World Film Festival, October 11 – 14, 2012 www.oneworldarts.ca - 613-238-4659

Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind is looking for loving homes for pups and dogs. To foster you require access to a vehicle for veterinary appointments and training sessions. All food and veterinary expenses are provided. The next information sessions are on July 6 and July 20. 613-692-7777 or www.guidedogs.ca/index2.php)

La Maison Pierre-Savard, un joyau du quadrilatère historique de l'Université



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



Photo Benjamin Vachet

La magnifique Maison Pierre-Savard.

Dans les années 1980 et 1990, les maisons patrimoniales de la rue Séraphin-Marion, autrefois Wilbrod, au cœur du quadrilatère historique de l'Université d'Ottawa et de la Côte-de-Sable, ont vraiment mauvaise mine. En effet, ces anciennes résidences ont perdu au fil du temps leurs magnifiques ornements en bois, qui caractérisaient le style victorien très populaire à la fin du XIXe siècle dans les quartiers bourgeois comme celui de la Côte-de-Sable. Encore pire, ces anciens bâtiments sont peints en gris, une des deux couleurs officielles de l'Université d'Ottawa avec le grenat, afin de bien les identifier à l'établissement. En agissant de la sorte, les belles briques rouges sont dissimulées sous une peinture qui s'écaille, ce qui donne une image bien négligée de ces édifices historiques.

Pierre Savard, un éminent historien

Heureusement, les choses changent pour le mieux après 1995, avec la restauration, entre autres, de la maison du 145, rue Séraphin-Marion, construite en 1884. Cette charmante maison, qui accueille le Département d'histoire, est nommée en l'honneur de Pierre Savard, ancien professeur du Département d'histoire et directeur du Centre de recherche en civilisation canadienne-française de 1973 à 1985. De plus, Pierre Savard joue aussi un rôle important dans la communauté franco-ontarienne en présidant, en 1977, le Groupe d'étude sur les arts en Ontario français. M. Savard avait son bureau au premier étage de l'ancienne résidence.

Depuis 2011, une école secondaire catholique francophone de l'ouest d'Ottawa porte le nom de cet éminent historien décédé en 1998.

Des rénovations importantes

Après les travaux réalisés par l'entreprise C & L Construction Ottawa, selon les plans de la firme d'architectes Murray et Murray, la maison retrouve sa richesse d'antan. L'entrepreneur général, Aurèle Levesque, fait tout pour respecter le cachet historique de la demeure. Ainsi, l'entreprise décape la peinture par jets

d'eau, avec des produits chimiques, et répare soigneusement le mortier. Des centaines de briques endommagées sont remplacées par des nouvelles de la même couleur. Enfin, on refait l'ornementation en bois selon les plans originaux.

Ce sont des recherches photographiques effectuées aux Archives de l'Université d'Ottawa qui permettent de retracer la façade d'origine de la maison. Au début du XXe siècle, les jeunes jouent à la balle dans la cour de Tabaret, qui se trouve être juste en face des maisons. Un regard attentif des photographies permet de voir tous les détails et les attributs architecturaux des bâtiments. En fait, c'est grâce à ces photos anciennes que l'on parvient à refaire avec exactitude la galerie, le balcon et la fine ornementation en bois de la Maison Pierre-Savard. D'ailleurs, cet exemple démontre bien que les archives ne servent pas uniquement à explorer le passé, mais sont aussi très utiles pour le présent.

En 1997, la Ville d'Ottawa reconnaît la qualité exceptionnelle des travaux réalisés en remettant à l'Université d'Ottawa le certificat du mérite dans la catégorie restauration. Il ne fait pas de doute qu'aujourd'hui, la Maison Pierre-Savard contribue avec ses voisines à embellir le quadrilatère historique de l'Université.

Venez découvrir la Maison Pierre-Savard et le quadrilatère historique de l'Université d'Ottawa en formant un groupe de 10 personnes et plus et en me contactant au 613-562-5825 ou à michel.prevast@uottawa.ca. Ces visites sont gra-

that was just by chance. The gushing was short-lived and Cathy firmly set me down in the "square" category from then on.

In fact I had no experience of the coffee house scene until I came to Ottawa in the early 70's and was able to see Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee, Shawn Phillips, Heaven's Radio and a host of others at the Sussex Avenue Hibou under the ownership of Pierre-Paul Lafreniere. The club had a genuine bohemian aura and many healthy things to eat but I was definitely not "cool" enough to fit right in. Still, it was a great place to listen to music and be right there almost in touching distance of the performer. I can still remember the electric guitars of Shawn Phillips blasting off the brick walls of the café.

Probably most people my age and older have ties to this atmospheric café and you can now indulge your nostalgic sentiments by visiting a web site dedicated to the Le Hibou experience. It has been organized by the first owner, Denis Faulkner, who has set out his own recollections as well as a photo gallery of most of the performers that passed through the door of Ottawa's most famous coffee house. If you really get into it you can add your own memories. Worth a visit - cafehibourecollections.ca/recollections



Café Le Hibou

Ralph Blaine

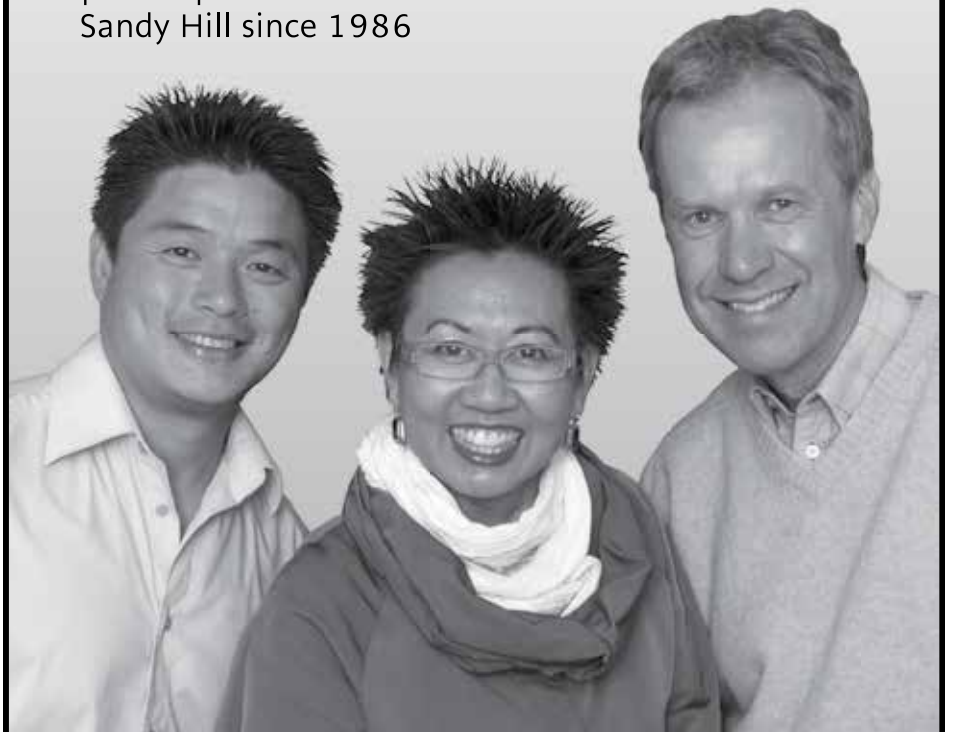
Once, 40 years ago, I was introduced to a very pretty girl in Montreal who gushed with enthusiasm when she found out I had grown up in Berkeley, California in the 50's and 60's. She wanted to know right away what my favourite coffee houses had been. Oh how humiliating. I had never been inside Fillmore West, never even got within blocks of Haight-Ashbury and certainly had no idea who Jerry Garcia was. I did once see a free concert by Country Joe and The Fish but

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Merchants react (or not) to planned Rideau Street construction

Larry Newman

Once upon a time there was a Rideau Street renewal that was projected to start replacing sewer and water pipes in May 2012. They were scheduled to be replaced first in the Dalhousie to King Edward section, then the section from King Edward to Chapel, then the final section to Cummings Bridge. Well, it's June and there are no backhoes in sight. Randy Dempsey, the City Senior Engineer for Infrastructure Projects is now thinking maybe by the end of June. Nobody on Rideau Street is holding their breath but some businesses are thinking about the effect on their business.

Bruce White, who operates the wonderful ByTowne Theatre at 325 Rideau Street, feels that, at present it's hard to make plans since the City of Ottawa has been moving the construction start date. "But the main task, once construction starts, is to communicate clearly with our customers, via our web site and our program guide. Besides informing customers about the way in which construction will affect them, it's important to remind patrons that, in most ways, construction will NOT affect them. A street under construction is not much different from a typical snowy winter day in Ottawa. Leaving the house a bit earlier than normal is all we need to do to be prepared for some delays in getting here and parking.

Because the ByTowne Guide is published once every two months, it would be terrific to know about City plans 60 days or more in advance. But when that's not possible, we hope to be able to keep our customers informed via our website, www.bytowne.ca, which can of course be updated much more frequently."

Bruce has emphasized that he will not entertain any changes to the quality of his popcorn.

Sophia Kim, manager at the Korea Garden, 470 Rideau Street, feels that her customer base is loyal but she worries that the tour buses that bring tourists to look at the fall scenery will find no place to park. She hasn't decided on a strategy to deal with that yet.

Rabi Hawa at Mags Plus, 420 Rideau Street, is hoping for a start of the second Phase (King Edward to Chapel) no earlier than September. Students start to arrive a week or two before fall classes start and that will give them time to get used to visiting his store. He is not worried about his regular walk-in customers and he is not planning to indulge in promotions.

David Kardish at Rideau Bakery, 384 Rideau Street, has a solid customer base built over 80 years, but feels he may adapt to the construction by running some in-store specials as a promotion.

Bobby Cho has been at Green's Food, 484 Rideau, for 12 years. He specializes in Korean food and he feels that his customers will not be deterred by having to park a short distance away. He has not thought of responding to the possible construction barrier.

Mike Sobh, Shawarma Palace, 450 Rideau Street, thinks that his customers are quite regular and will not let a little thing like construction deter them. His food is his only advertisement.

Achille Konga and his team at Rideau Pharmacy are happy to announce that they will be offering complimentary coffee during the construction. Free delivery service of prescription medications will continue to be available.

So it's almost business as usual for the Rideau Street merchants. Most know that their business could be affected but so far, that's life in the big city. It's once in 100 years, after all.

—with notes from Lise Ausman

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NewsBites

Ayoub's to re-open


After being burned out in a fire in April 2009, Ayoub's Mini Mart, on Somerset east at Blackburn, is finally set to open at the end of June. It's been a difficult three years for the Ayoub-Chahine family, first to lose both business and home (their apartment above the store) and then to have to go through the process of dealing with insurance, contractors and permits, all of which were slow and frustrating. Meanwhile neighbourhood residents missed the delicious Lebanese food, groceries, meat and friendly people as they watched the demolition and rebuilding happen – but oh, so slowly. The store will be much like it was before with groceries, produce and Lebanese food. “But it will have more hot food to take out,” says Nouha Ayoub-Chahine. She gave the impression that the re-opening would be very low key. “But there may be a party later.” Some of us can hardly wait for that Lebanese take out. —Jan Meldrum



Photo Jan Meldrum




St. Clement's parish relocates
The sign came down at this Sandy Hill landmark at the end of May, when the parish moved to St. Anne's church on Old St. Patrick St.



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Paris in the park equals love in the heart

Mark Turcotte

This summer, Sandy Hill's Strathcona Park gets transformed into late 19th century Paris for a non-stop comedic ride with head spinning twists and unexpected humorous turns. Travel back to the near past with Odyssey Theatre in its presentation of Marivaux's classic comedy The Game of Love and Chance. This high energy adaptation created and directed by Andy Massingham (who played The Count in last year's successful run of The Fan) promises to be so much fun that it will have you can-canning in the grassy aisles. But this show is not only about fun and Game; the play is imbued with sensuality, intrigue, disguises, and deals with subtle psychological explorations of love in relation to forbidden passion, which still has relevance today.

Two young aristocratic lovers are matched up as prospective marriage partners by their respective fathers. Neither lover has ever met the other. Each of them decides to check out their future mate from afar; unbeknownst to their counterpart they switch places with their servants. The help revel in the Chance to play master and don't easily give up their good fortune. The game is played with a great deal of vigour, so much so, the players forget their roles and hilarity ensues.

In a review of a Toronto performance of the play, Globe and Mail theatre critic J. Kelly Nestruck remarked, “Indeed, there's something quite modern about the sensibility of this play, the witty superficiality of 18th-century bourgeois French ballrooms not being all that far off from carefully crafted personas put forth on dating websites like Plenty of Fish today.” Modern daters coming to Odyssey's show might want to bring along a notebook to take down some important pointers on the dos and don'ts of courtship. When the stakes are this high, either in 1890s Paris or 2012 Ottawa, you've got to put on your best game face.

Dates for this year's performances are July 26 – August 26. The park box office opens at 7 p.m., the gate at 7:30 p.m. and the show starts promptly at 8:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday matinees start at 3:00 p.m., gate opens at 2 p.m.

For younger audiences Odyssey will be presenting Rag and Bone Puppet Theatre's A Promise is a Promise. It's the story of a young heroine who discovers what commitment and honesty mean through her attempts to avoid capture by the Qallupilluit, sea monsters of the North. This play is based on the book by Robert Munsch and Michael Kusugak. Performances are Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 p.m., August 1, 8, 15, 22.

For more information visit www.odysseytheatre.ca, or email boxoffice@odysseytheatre.ca.

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Directed by Andy Massingham

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Tea social

Yvonne van Alphen

“Sandy Hill is a diverse community but I realized that there was no family place to get together,” says Mr Iraj Aghakhani, owner of Fleur Tea House, which opened in March at 287 Somerset Street east.

Wikipedia says that, after water, tea is the most widely consumed beverage in the world. Fleur Tea House has a menu of tea from all over the world, the most popular of which, says Mr Aghakhani, are those grown in China. Fleur Tea House has a range of green teas, which are brewed at a water temperature of 75 °C (under boiling point), compared to 95 °C (approx. boiling) for black tea. Huangshan Maofeng, Yellow Mountain Fur Peak, is a green tea named for the white hairs covering its leaves that resemble the peak of a mountain, and has a floral sweetness.

As well as tea and a tempting variety of sweets, Fleur Tea House sells Italian paninis – either vegetarian, ham, turkey or chicken, or roast beef. “It was due to customer feedback that we added paninis to our menu,” Mr Aghakhani told me.

Mr Aghakhani said that when he moved to Canada, he thought that tea had been lost and not many people realized what such a healthy natural drink it is. “The antioxidants in a single cup of tea are equal to a single serving of vegetables. The polyphenols in tea also appear to strengthen our immune systems, and research suggests that drinking tea may have a preventive effect on cancer and some other diseases,” he said.

Since opening, Mr Aghakhani says, Fleur Tea House has become popular with Sandy Hill families. Not only is it a place to go for a hot or cool beverage, but it is also a place to go for entertainment. For example, on Saturday nights (7 p.m.), you can enjoy an open “mic” session or live guitar music by a local musician. On Thursday nights (10 p.m.), by signing up in advance, you can dance the Argentine tango with members from a local dance school called Siempre Tango. Mr Aghakhani says he also has plans to hold a weekly “classic movie night” including the film The Artist. Fleur



Photo Dave Elden

Tea House also sponsors its own volleyball team and is open for membership through their Facebook page.

Mr Aghakhani sees Fleur Tea House as a place where people can get together and socialize. He says that they are trying to make Fleur Tea House a central point in the Sandy Hill community.

“We would love for anyone from the community to come and play at Fleur Tea House.”

So Sandy Hillers head on in, try out a cup or jorum of tea, and enjoy the moment.

Photo Dave Elden



Fleur Tea House . 287 Somerset E., is open Monday-Saturday 9:00 a.m.– 10:00 p.m. and Sunday from 10:00 a.m.– 10:00 p.m. Check the website for coming events, including movies: www.fleurteahouse.com/en-US/Default.aspx

Left— Iraj Aghakhani, the proprietor, offers hot and cool drinks and entertainment on most evenings.

Photo Bill Blackstone

CALENDAR

June - July 2012

Events and shows taking place in or near Sandy Hill

Until Aug. 26 – About Town by Maxwell Bates and Philip Surrey, The Ottawa Art Gallery, Arts Court, 2 Daly Ave., 613 233-8699, www.ottawaartgallery.ca.

Until Sept. 30 – An Embarrassment of Riches: The Collection in Focus, an exhibition at the Carleton University Art Gallery, curated by Sandra Dyck and Diana Nemiroff, showing off recent additions to the collection. <http://cuag.carleton.ca/index.php/exhibitions/upcoming>

July and Aug. – Summer drama camps and youth theatre workshops available at Ottawa Little Theatre, drama camps for kids ages 9-12 years old, youth theatre workshops for youth ages 13-17 years old, full programming details available at www.ottawalittletheatre.com. or 613 233-8948.

June 12, 26 - The Tree Reading series meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, featuring an all open-mic (June 12) and Christine McNair and Sandra Ridley (June 26), Arts Court Library, 2 Daly Ave., doors open at 7:30 pm, free admission, 613 749-3773, the Tree Reading Series also offers free one-hour poetry workshops, 6:45-7:45 p.m., www.treereadingseries.ca.

June 21 – Aug. 19 – Visitors by Adad Hannah, The Ottawa Art Gallery, Arts Court, 2 Daly Ave., 613 233-8699, www.ottawaartgallery.ca.

June 21 – Sept. 9 – Your Word is Bond by Christos Pantieras, The Ottawa Art Gallery, Arts Court, 2 Daly Ave., 613 233-8699, www.ottawaartgallery.ca.

June 25 - Action Sandy Hill meets the last Monday of the month, 7 p.m., 613 241-4646, Sandy Hill Community Centre, 250 Somerset St. E.

June 28 - Members and the community are invited to the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre's Annual General Meeting at 250 Somerset St. E. (SH Community Centre), social with staff and board of directors, and meet new board candidates from 5:30-6:30 p.m., AGM will begin at 6:30 p.m., refreshments will be served.

June 29 – Aug. 18 – Local Flora, an exhibit that showcases the work of nine artists from the Ottawa and Outaouais regions, the exhibition explores the many ways in which plant and tree life can be interpreted in contemporary art, opening party on June 29, 8 p.m. – 2 a.m., Galerie SAW Gallery, 67 Nicholas St., 613 236-6181, www.galleriesawgallery.com, open Tuesday to Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

July and Aug - TD Summer Reading Club / Club de lecture d'été TD, bilingual / bilingue, at the Rideau library branch, 377 Rideau St., 613 241-6954, www.biblioottawalibrary.ca. (See article below)

July 2 – Aug. 13 - Company of Fools presents Henry V in Strathcona Park, Monday evenings at 7 p.m., performances are 90 minutes long with no intermission, \$15 is the suggested donation, bring a blanket or lawn chair to sit on, for the full schedule and list of locations visit www.fools.ca or call 613-863-7529

Summer programs for kids & families at Rideau Library - bilingue

Kids can set their imaginations free this summer with books, reading and programs from the fantastic to the wonderful. Kids participating in the TD Summer Reading Club will receive a free poster, an activity book and stickers with secret codes that unlock rewards online. The Rideau branch of the OPL will have free programs throughout the summer.

Imagine: TD Summer Reading Club 2012 kick-off! Imagine: joignez-vous à nous pour le lancement du Club de lecture d'été TD 2012! Family Program/Programme familial. Bilingual/Bilingue. Wednesday, July 4: (2:00 pm – 3:00 pm). Closing ceremony August 22.

Imagine you're a... / Et si j'étais... Bilingual/Bilingue. Tuesday, July 10: (10:30 am – 11:05 am) and Tuesday, August 14: (10:30 am – 11:05 am) Stories, rhymes and songs for children of all ages and a parent or caregiver. / Histoires, comptines et chansons pour enfants de tous âges et un parent ou gardien.

Mythical Mash-up/Mélange mythique. Bilingual/Bilingue. Wednesday, July 11: (2:00

July 5 - 8 – Dusk Dances in Strathcona Park, corner of Range Rd. and Laurier Ave. E., everyone welcome, 7 p.m., pay what you can, bring your own chairs and blankets, www.duskdances.ca or 613 295-6443.

July 13 – Ottawa's newest professional touring theatre company, Bear & Co., presents William Shakespeare's As You Like It, in Strathcona Park, show starts at 7 p.m., please bring a blanket or lawn chair, refreshments and bug spray, pass the hat with a suggested contribution of \$10 per person. The performance will travel to other parks in Ottawa from July 3 to Aug. 5, www.bearandcompany.ca.

July 16 – 20, July 30 – Aug. 3, Aug. 13 – 17 - The Ottawa Art Gallery offers summer camps for youth ages 8 to 12, content primarily in English with bilingual staff, includes pre and post-care, for full programming details, visit www.ottawaartgallery.ca or call 613-233-8699, ext. 228.



July 17 – 28 - Black Coffee, By Agatha Christie and directed by Johni Keyworth, Ottawa Little Theatre, 8 p.m., \$25, \$22 (seniors), \$10 (students), matinee on July 22 at 2 p.m., 400 King Edward Ave., 613 233-8948, www.ottawalittletheatre.com.

July 27 – World Hepatitis Day event organized by Canadian Society for International Health. BBQ, music, health displays and testing for Hepatitis C. 11:30 – 1:30 p.m., St. Paul's-Eastern, Cumberland at Daly. Volunteers needed.

Aug. 7 - 10 – Summer Fun Week, hosted by St. Paul Lutheran, corner of Wilbrod and King Edward. Morning Bible lesson, afternoon outing – it's gonna be a blast! Events include Little Ray's Reptiles, Canadian Museum of Nature, a carnival & BBQ. Visit www.StPaulOttawa.org or call Desiree Hagen at 613 230-8163.

Aug. 11 – Art in Strathcona Park, featuring the work of over 100 artists and artisans, Laurier Ave. E. and Range Rd., local performing talent are welcome to attend and "pass the hat".

Aug. 14 – 25 – Jasper Station, by Norm Foster, music and lyrics by Steve Thomas and directed by Richard Elchuk, Ottawa Little Theatre, 8 p.m., \$25, \$22 (seniors), \$10 (students), matinee on Aug. 19 at 2 p.m., 400 King Edward Ave., 613 233-8948, www.ottawalittletheatre.com.

Sept. 24 - Action Sandy Hill meets the last Monday of the month, 7 p.m., 613 241-4646, Sandy Hill Community Centre, 250 Somerset St. E.

pm – 3:00 pm) Artists love to paint, sculpt and draw characters from folklore and myths. Together we will invent the Ultimate Mythical Creature by mashing together elements of our favourite legendary beings. Presented by the Ottawa Art Gallery. Ages 9-12. Registration. / Hercule, Isis, Oiseau-tonnerre, dragons et sirènes : les artistes aiment peindre, sculpter et dessiner divers êtres folkloriques et mythiques. Ensemble, nous inventerons une fabuleuse créature qui amalgamera les éléments de nos bestioles légendaires préférées! Présenté par la Galerie d'art d'Ottawa. Pour les 9 à 12 ans. Inscription.

Making and Breaking Codes. Wednesday, July 18: (2:00 pm – 3:00 pm) Did you ever wonder what it would be like to be a top secret spy? Learn how to make and break secret codes! This interactive program will teach children about the history of the Cold War and the Diefenbunker. Ages 6-9. Registration.

Ingenious Inventions/Eurêka! Bilingual/Bilingue. Wednesday, July 25: (2:00 pm – 3:00 pm) Test your imagination with games and



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Nursery Rhyme Time/Chansons et rondes pour s'amuser. Bilingual/Bilingue. Saturday, July 28: (10:30 am – 11:05 am) Stories, rhymes and songs for babies and a parent or caregiver. Bilingual/Bilingue. Ages 0-18 months. / Histoires, comptines et chansons pour bébés et un parent ou gardien. Pour les 0 à 18 mois.

Time-Travelling Tales/Les voyageurs du temps. Bilingual/Bilingue. Wednesday, August 1: (2:00 pm – 3:00 pm) Ages 6-8. / Les voyageurs dans le temps, de l'époque des hommes des cavernes aux astronautes du futur. Pour les âges 6 à 8 ans.

Fully Fractured Fairytales/Contes de fées tout cassés. Bilingual/Bilingue. Wednesday, August 8: (2:00 pm – 3:00 pm)

Arts Animation/Animation d'art. Bilingual/Bilingue. Wed., August 15: (2:00 – 3:00 pm)

Window on the Rideau

Photo Gwen Williams

The prettiest boy on the river

Robin Harlick

Our Sandy Hill section of the Rideau River is the summer home to one of the best looking ducks in North America; the Wood Duck. The male's showy breeding plumage could almost be a model for a Picasso cubist painting. But sadly his iridescent, multi-coloured handsomeness is fleeting. Once his breeding duties are over, he moults to a much drabber grey plumage. Although the female Wood Duck follows the usual duck standard of female drabness, she is nonetheless much prettier than her Mallard sisters, with a distinctive white pattern around her eyes and blue and white wing feathers.

The best time to see the male in his full glory is in spring, shortly after he and his mate arrive on the Rideau River in late March and on through to June. The two of them are most likely to be seen drifting along the shoreline in the grassier sections, from Strathcona Park through to the Hurdman Bridge. And of course towards the end of June, you will start to see this year's crop of ducklings skittering along the water behind their mother.

Although Wood Ducks don't mate for life, they do tend to pair up at their wintering grounds, which are mainly along the U.S. Eastern Seaboard. The female tends to be the homebody preferring to return to where she was hatched. And the male being a good spouse dutifully follows, although once his mating duties are done, he takes off and joins other males for a bit of carousing in more isolated locations.

The Wood Ducks are part of a unique group of tree nesting ducks, which also include Common Goldeneye and Barrow's Goldeneye ducks, both of which spend their winters dodging the ice flows on our section of the Rideau River. When the pair arrives in spring they search out nesting cavities in large trees near the water. They prefer cavities, usually those made by Pileated Woodpeckers, of about a two foot depth with a small entry hole to discourage predators. The female lines the hole with down taken from her breast before laying her clutch of 8 to 15 eggs. She is also one of the few ducks that can have two broods in a year.

The Wood Duck is well equipped with strong claws, which enables it to grip the bark. The newly hatched ducklings use these claws to crawl out of their nesting cavity. Without any help from their mother they jump down from the tree and head towards the water. She, however, hasn't completely given up on her motherly duties and calls out to let them know she is waiting.

When nesting cavities are at a minimum, females have been known to dump their eggs in another female's nesting hole. This hapless mother can end up with more than 20 ducklings to raise. Fortunately baby Wood Ducks can pretty well take care of themselves. They only need the firm beak of a mother to keep them out of trouble. So if you see a female Wood Duck with many little feather balls jostling behind her, chances are they aren't all her own.

Wood Ducks will also nest in man-made nesting boxes. The large rectangular shaped boxes began proliferating along the edges of marshy waterways



Wood Duck — showy plumage could almost be a model for a Picasso.

when duck hunters became alarmed at the dramatic decline in their numbers. A highly sought after game bird, these nesting boxes managed to stop their decline and their numbers have since reached healthy levels.

As an after school project, my nephew and I spent a winter building one of these nesting boxes and in the spring attached it to a large tree on a beaver swamp near our cottage. Although I've never seen any ducks near the nesting box in summer, in winter when my husband and I check it out, we invariably find that it has been lined with the nesting down.

If you are interested in building one, the directions are easily found on the internet. You can try the Ducks Unlimited website www.ducks.ca. Some of you may even want to go so far as to build a couple to be placed strategically along our Sandy Hill shoreline to see if they would attract more Wood Ducks. I imagine, though, that a go-ahead is probably needed from whichever authority owns the shoreline.

I also want to report on a crazy duck incident following my Birds in Love article. Rachel reports via Peter, that a mother Mallard and several ducklings found their way onto her Sandy Hill driveway. She found herself beating off a cat, while trying to persuade them to go into a cardboard box. They, however, had other ideas and fled towards the river, hopefully out of reach of the cat.

If you have a nature story to tell, please pass it on to the IMAGE folks, who will pass it on to me. And if you have a story idea, please let me know too.

As R.J. Harlick, Robin writes the Meg Harris series set in the wilds of Quebec. The fifth book and latest in the series, *A Green Place for Dying*, was released in February to much critical acclaim. She is now working on the next, *Silver Totem of Shame*, for publication in late 2013 or early 2014.

This season, don't forget your trees: top five things to do

The Urban Forest Stewardship Network (UFSN) is calling on residents in communities across Ontario to help trees in their yards and neighbourhoods. Our trees exist in stressful conditions. Drought, air pollution, salt spray, competition with overhead utilities and root damage during construction are just a few of the hardships we ask our trees to endure. This summer Ontarians can give their trees a little extra TLC with these top five care tips:

1 Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place. When planting new trees,

make sure to match the species of tree you choose to the light, soil and space conditions of your yard. Be sure to look up so you don't plant under hydro wires and always call before you dig!

2 Water Regularly. Both newly planted and mature trees need regular watering. Each week, feel the soil near the base of your tree. If dry, give it a long, slow soak.

3 Mulch Regularly. Mulch (woodchips, leaves, compost) holds moisture, provides nutrients, prevents soil

compaction, and creates a protective space around your tree. Spread mulch three inches deep around the base of your tree, ensuring it is not touching the trunk and causing decay.

4 Prevent Damage. Avoid digging near trees or compacting soil which can cause root damage. Ninety per cent of a tree's roots are located in the top two feet of soil and can extend up to three times the width of the canopy. Use organic alternatives to fertilizers and pesticides. Remove stakes after one year.

5 Prune Properly. Educate yourself on proper tree pruning. Hire a certified arborist and investigate their reputation by speaking with previous clients.

The Urban Forest Stewardship Network (www.ufsn.ca) is an online resource for organizations, community groups and individuals working on urban forest initiatives across Ontario. It is a platform for sharing experiences and resources, and for capacity building. Anyone interested in trees and urban forest issues is welcome to join!

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