

SANDY
HILL

IMAGE

CÔTE-DE-
SABLE

JUNE - JULY 2013

JUIN - JUILLET 2013

Reach for the sky, Rideau Street!

Larry Newman

Counting the latecomers who had to stand, there were probably 75 attendees in the Rideau Library's large meeting room on the evening of May 8. They were there to listen to Richcraft's plans for developing most of the south side of Rideau Street between Charlotte and Cobourg streets. (For the history of the project before May 8 see the sidebar page 7; for project details see www.tinyurl.com/560Rideau.) Councilor Mathieu Fleury facilitated the meeting. Miguel Tremblay of FoTenn, an urban planning firm, and Rod Lahey, the architect, introduced the design using slides and drawings on easels and, as well, spoke to the business of building. City Planner Bliss Edwards spoke about the consultation process and her role in it. Kevin Yamm of Richcraft attended.

Clearly, for most of the Sandy Hill

residents in attendance, objection to the proposed 18-storey tower on the corner of Rideau and Cobourg was what drove them to this meeting. Few spoke against the rest of the project—seven- and four-storey buildings filling in the rest of the block between Cobourg and the medical building at Charlotte Street. Several times Miguel Tremblay referred residents to the design, which incorporates a cafe and restaurant and an open area at the sidewalk level, as if this relatively common approach was an unusual and exciting idea. In response to the sometimes vehement denunciation of the tower, Tremblay said that Richcraft was just responding to the City's desire to increase density in the "main street" parts of town, an arguable claim as it had been the city core that had been targeted for intensification.

Tremblay and Lahey fielded many questions and the meeting ran over the allotted time with more questions unanswered.

560 Rideau, continued on page 6.



Architect's drawing of the 18-storey tower proposed by Richcraft for the corner of Rideau and Cobourg.

Conversions flash frozen for a year

Judy Rinfret

With little or no notice, after two or three years of growing unease and frustration in Sandy Hill and more recently in other parts of the city, Ottawa's council has approved an interim control bylaw to immediately stop all applications for conversions in Sandy Hill, Ottawa East and South and the Glebe.

In the view of some neighbours, the freeze has occurred too late as former single family homes or duplexes have become what are dubbed "bunkhouses" or residences with minimal common space and multi bedrooms. It is not uncommon for a "conversion" to result in 20 and more bedrooms in what was once a three or four bedroom home.

Conversion according to the definition in the city's zoning by law sounds innocuous — "Conversion means the alteration of but not demolition of a residential use building to increase the number of principal dwelling units or rooming units resulting in the creation of a use which must be a permitted use in the zone and does not include the creation or addition of a secondary dwelling unit..."

It appears that meaning may be stretched to what seems entirely unintended.

Most of Sandy Hill is zoned R3 and R4 permitting a variety of housing. R3 and

R4 zones permit the virtual take-down of a house (though technically not a demolition) and replacement with up to four residential units. It is unlikely that anyone envisaged each of these four units containing six and more bedrooms with a small common kitchen area and one or two common bathrooms.

But that has been the case especially in proximity to the University of Ottawa where, despite the huge increase in students, there has been no increase in residences on campus for a number of years. Students are willing to pay above market rent for minimal and even sub-standard space; developers have found what may be a loophole in our bylaws and a great opportunity for profit.

But, aside from high rents for sub-standard housing, there is a price to be paid and that is the sense of Sandy Hill as a community for a variety of persons. "Sandy Hill is at a tipping point," said one long-time resident at a recent Action Sandy Hill meeting; the southern sector may be becoming a student ghetto.

Residents have decided to speak up and take action to preserve the character of this neighbourhood. They are signing up for committees, studying zoning bylaws, talking to planners, taking stock of their immediate neighbourhoods, reviewing site plans and trying to ensure the enforcement of bylaws.

Conversions, continued on page 6. See letters page 2 for more comments.



Photo Bill Blackstone



Photo Bill Blackstone



Photo Bill Blackstone

DOORS OPEN, 2013 Eleven Sandy Hill buildings welcomed the public June 1-2

People flocked to the 2013 Ottawa edition of the province-wide Doors Open program here in Sandy Hill.

Connie Brook at All Saints reports that 652 visitors passed through her church, with 325 intrepid folk climbing the bell tower.

IMAGE photographer Bill Blackstone captured some of the activity (top to bottom) Manuel Kingunda at the Angolan Embassy in Panet House (189 Laurier East); Clarissa Arthur, Heather Heagney and Karen Clermont at the Youville Centre (150 Mann); Neil Forsyth and visitors at All Saints (317 Chapel), and Chef Arnaud Bonnefoy at Le Cordon Bleu in Munross House (453 Laurier Ave. E.). Other Sandy Hill locations were Arts Court (2 Daly), Diane Gagné (5 Blackburn), Algeria in Fleck Paterson House (500 Wilbrod), Croatia in Toller House (229 Chapel), Laurier House (335 Laurier E.), St. Paul's-Eastern (473 Cumberland) and St Paul Lutheran (210 Wilbrod).



Photo Bill Blackstone

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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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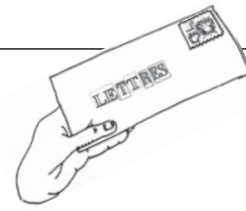
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**Our readers
write ...**



**Courrier
des lecteurs**

Sandy Hill is losing its diverse residential mix

As Sandy Hill residents who have enjoyed living here for a number of years, we are concerned that improper City zoning and pressures from the University are threatening our once diverse residential mix.

We know a good number of families who have moved out recently because of noise, bad behaviour and the number of bunkhouses being put up in the neighbourhood. One young family that moved in only three months ago, just put up a "for sale" sign and they cite the noise of neighbours next door.

We are not suffering from a case of "nimbyism" – we simply recognize that healthy communities have diverse demographics. What we have seen recently in Sandy Hill is the case of poorly planned development that has catered to one demographic. This has resulted in a residential imbalance with escalating negative effects.

New "conversions" have replaced homes of long-term residents. Not only have these been filled with upwards of twenty bedrooms, thereby increasing density dramatically, they have done so without regard to the effect on neighbours and the surrounding character of the neighbourhood. They have also had the effect of giving families no choice but to leave and to deter any new families from moving in. This is a shame.

The recent conversions have changed the built character of the area. No family would be interested in living near what amounts to mainly unregulated student dorms. These conversions can never go back to being family homes; they are too greatly altered. They are oversized, they tower over back yards, most are eyesores and they often have exterior stairways that interfere dramatically with neighbours' peace and quiet. Along with these conversions, we have a church and a seniors residence being converted to student housing.

It is now estimated that students comprise more than 50% of the population of Sandy Hill east of King Edward (i.e., off campus.) To add to this, we also have a great number of rooming houses. An oversized transient population does not make for a healthy community. With these pressures we are now witnessing a rapid decline of Sandy Hill.

The University must assume some of the responsibility for this decline. Research on on-campus housing shows that

the University of Ottawa ranks among the lowest, if it is not actually at the bottom of the list, in providing housing for students on campus—housing 8.8 percent of its own students. The next lowest is Carleton University at 16.3 percent; Queens houses more than a quarter of its students, and around eight other universities provide more housing proportionally to their populations.

The University's Director of Housing Services has indicated that they are considering options for more student housing and that a decision is imminent. It is hoped that they choose a location that is on campus and at a distance from the residential part of Sandy Hill or away from the residential section at their new campus on Lees Ave. Students deserve to live in affordable, quality housing. The University should do its share for the sake of its students.

The City of Ottawa has played a key role in this situation and many in the neighbourhood are working to convince the City to down-zone this area, as this appears to be one of the best ways we can stop the decline in the neighbourhood. Recognizing the strains on our community even back in 2003, the City's own Official Plan in the Secondary Plan for Sandy Hill called for a "modest increase in population, primarily as a way of housing some of the growth in the Central Area labour force." As is readily apparent, we have, instead, accepted enormous growth; much more than 50 percent, by a conservative reading of the census data. We would also urge the City to adhere to its own studies and plans so that Rideau Street not become just an enlarged Rideau Centre with high rises all along the street's length.

Sandy Hill is a wonderful neighbourhood. It is also one of the few heritage areas left, not only in Ottawa but in the entire country. Let us hope that we can do something to put a stop to the demise of this great neighbourhood. Will the City and the University do their part? Will ASH be up to this task?

**Barbara Brockmann
Michael O'Keeffe
Camille Ainslie
Vivienne Bartlett
Karina Kraenzle
Louise Shaughnessy**

Satellite campus expansion for the University?

I am 44 years old and I've lived in Sandy Hill since I was seven. I have had the privilege of growing up in this great community. I played in safe and clean parks; I had access to wonderful schools, libraries, and community resources. This neighbourhood has been a huge part of my life and I would very much like that to continue for my own children.

For almost two decades, Ottawa University has continued to expand its enrollment. In many ways, it feels as though the double cohort has never really ended. I've watched families move away and their old homes mutated into bunkhouses. I've lived beside rental properties that morphed into obnoxious frat and club houses. I've walked through our parks and school yards and found them littered with bottle caps and broken beer bottles. As Ottawa U has expanded, the student population has increase disproportionately. With this increase have come the excesses of rotting garbage by day and raucous behavior at night.

There seems to me to be a lack of coordinated planning between the university, the city and province in terms of managing the expansions of our colleges and universities so that the adverse effects

on our neighborhoods are minimized. The stress that student influx is causing in Sandy Hill is becoming intolerable and far too many good families are leaving.

As a resident who has had to endure the often inconsiderate and irresponsible antics of the Delta Pi fraternity as a neighbour for four horrendous years, it is my view that the current unchecked expansion of Ottawa University cannot be allowed to continue as is.

I strongly recommend that for the short term, Ottawa U place a moratorium on growing its student population. Both the university and the city need to aggressively petition the province to build more on-campus residences to better manage the current load of students. If expansion is expected to continue at a rate of 500 students per year as a long-term projection, I would also suggest, the construction of a satellite campus in another part of Ottawa, like Kanata or Barrhaven, that would be similar to University of Toronto's Erindale campus.

**Paul Michniewicz
Marlborough Ave**

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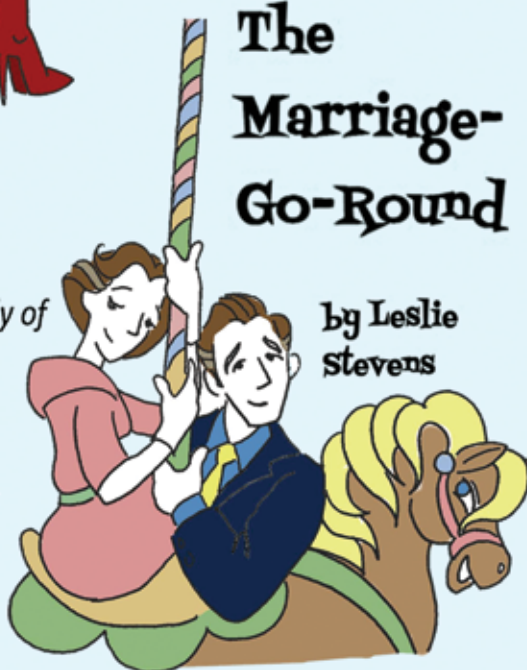
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Drama in Sandy Hill

Photo Ken Clavette



On May 2, this fire was spotted at 440 Nelson Street. Ken Clavette, who helped with the evacuation, reports only one tenant was home at the time and she was able to leave safely. The cause of the fire was a cigarette left burning. Repairs will take up to 4 months.

Photo Frank Antonsen





On May 21, a huge portion of a Silver Maple tree came crashing down on Russell Avenue. Luckily, no pedestrians, cyclists or cars were hit. The City had noted it was rotten in 2011. It was “put in for routine maintenance sometime this summer” but was not fast-tracked when concerned neighbours called in 2012 and again this past spring.

Photo Ken Clavette




On May 23, Thursday a hit-and-run on King Edward resulted in a fleeing SUV hitting a tree on Henderson Ave when the driver drove at high speed the wrong way up the one-way street and lost control.



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Am I being watched?

Ron Hodgson

In the last issue of IMAGE I wrote about “Replacement Traps.” As part of my research for that article I checked out prices from several online retailers and noticed that almost immediately I began to get embedded ads for similar items when I looked at online articles from other sources. For example, while checking out a web article from the English paper *The Telegraph* there in front of me was an ad from Amazon for humidifier filters which I had recently price-checked on the Amazon site. There’s no relationship between the article in *The Telegraph* and humidifier filters. Could it have been a coincidence?

I decided to experiment and looked for inflatable kayaks on the Amazon site. I checked out several and then went back to reading web articles. Sure enough, when I checked an interesting web article from *The Washington Post*, there, in the sidebar was an ad from Amazon for inflatable kayaks. On-line retailers, it seems, have advertising agreements with content providers.

Website visitor tracking (WVT) is the analysis of visitor behaviour on a website. By tracking visitors’ queries and look-ups it is possible to gain an understanding of their preferences and to make conjectures about other things in which a visitor might be interested. You’ve probably seen the phrase “Customers who viewed this also viewed - -” followed by a series of similar items, book titles, music and so on.

The information obtained is made possible by the use of “cookies”—bits of code that are embedded in your browser that allow the website to quickly restore information such as addresses, phone numbers, purchase history and other data that you may have submitted. This information is supposed to only be used by the collector and only after obtaining agreement from you, the visitor. The agreement is usually included in the fine print when you become a member. It would be considered a breach of browser security if the information obtained about you is sold or passed on to someone else.

However, there is nothing to stop the website owner from carefully using information about you in their own domain or where they have made an agreement with another web operator to lease space for targeted ads on their pages. That’s how targeted ads show up where you might least expect them.

In the example here, Amazon has an agreement with *The Washington Post* that allows them to show targeted ads based on the information obtained via the cookies from the end-user’s computer. *The Washington Post* leases web page space to Amazon and Amazon customizes it to meet the calculated preferences of the end-user.

This is just one use of cookies which in general make websites more efficient for both the site owner and the user by speeding things up for return visitors. Without cookies the site would need to get basic information from you every time you wanted to use it thus eliminating one of the very convenient aspects of online transactions.

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Privacy

Short of eliminating cookies on your computer, what then can be done to cover your tracks? Let’s start with the Amazon website. Their system is representative of many other online retailers and like most, they offer a way to turn off the tracking system. You may notice in small print at the bottom right of the kayak picture a small “privacy” button. When I clicked on this I was linked to a page from Amazon that gave me the option of turning off the personal Amazon ads. I was presented with a preference box that allowed me to choose whether I wanted to receive personalized ads or not. Clicking on the “Do Not Personalize” button and submitting it is supposed to stop Amazon from storing tracking cookies.

There are also pieces of software called “plug-ins” that prevent storage of browser cookies. One of them is called Disconnect (<https://disconnect.me/>). This is “pay what you want” software that means you

Submit Your Preference

☒ Personalize Ads from Amazon

☐ Do Not Personalize Ads from Amazon for this Internet Browser

Submit

pay what you think it’s worth to you. With it installed, cross-site cookie tracking is blocked by default although you can make an exception for certain sites if you wish.

On balance the creation of cookies makes future transactions more efficient, but it means you are always leaving a trail. Most retailers such as Amazon, Apple and Google, as well as organizations such as government departments and insurance companies, are very careful with their customer information. The best advice is to only provide such information to organizations you trust—and to only allow cookies on your computer from websites you can depend on.

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Light rail construction news for Sandy Hill

John Verbass

Modifications began the week of May 21st, 2013 on the Nicholas-Laurier-Waller intersections in preparation for the start of tunnel construction for the Light Rail Transit system. In order to begin digging the tunnel (in July), buses will need to be detoured off Waller Street, south of Laurier Ave. This is because the tunnelling on the east side of the downtown will be undertaken on this section of Waller Street. What this means for existing bus operations is that as buses head north from Campus station they will be merged onto two lanes on the east side of Nicholas St. (south of Laurier). Buses will then turn onto Laurier between Nicholas and Waller at which point they will return to the existing transitway north of Laurier. This requires double sets of turns for 180 buses per hour in each direction in a short distance onto and off Laurier. It could be interesting!

There will be road modifications associated with this which include the widening of Laurier and Nicholas in this area, as well as re-purposing some traffic lanes. On Laurier one of the two westbound lanes towards downtown will be re-purposed for bus operations and on Nicholas

northbound the right turn onto Laurier to head east into Sandy Hill will also be re-purposed for buses. A side effect of that change is that cars will no longer be able to make a northbound right turn from Nicholas onto Laurier. These changes will be in effect for several years and may lead to more traffic delays throughout that area. A map of these changes is available above and on the OC Transpo website: octranspo1.com/routes/transitway_realignment_at_laurier.

This reconfiguration will continue until the point in time when the LRT construction has advanced to the stage where track is being laid on the transitway from Campus station southwards. At that time buses will be completely moved off of the transitway and one lane in each direction of Nicholas is planned to be dedicated to buses. This loss of one general traffic lane in each direction on Nicholas between Laurier and the 417 will continue until the LRT goes into operation in 2018 and will likely result in more congestion on Nicholas. A side effect of this change may be more traffic than usual shifting over to use King Edward instead.

I think it's fair to say that Sandy Hill will be glad in more ways than one when the LRT goes into operation.

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560 Rideau

Continued from page 1

Heritage - This project is on the edge of a heritage district and the contrast between the tower and the more-than-century old, brick and stone homes is jarring.

Geology - A parking garage that is three and a half storeys deep may affect the water table which is critical in this area of Leda clay. Richcraft's geotechnical report noted that precautions must be taken to waterproof the parking garage foundation walls to prevent "significant dewatering" of the soil around adjacent buildings. Many property owners in the vicinity have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars remediating foundation damage to their homes.

Unit size - Questions were asked about the percent of two- and three- bedroom units allocated to the condos. The concern was that there were no plans for housing families. Fifty percent of the units are scheduled to have one bedroom (500-750 sq. ft.) The remainder are two-bedroom and studio apartments. The number of units is also a concern.

Tower, of course - Many objections to its 18-storey height. Rideau is a "main street"; a development category restricted to four to six storeys. The OMB had given approval several years ago for nine storeys on part of this property. Many were afraid of the precedent setting nature of the tower. They know that Richcraft has built very tall towers before and there are plans for two 48 storey towers at or near Preston Street. Richcraft also owns the property at the southeast corner of Charlotte and Rideau. If 560 Rideau is a "gateway," an argument Richcraft uses to justify building the tower, then the Charlotte and Rideau location must be über gateway.

Bliss Edwards, city planner in charge of this project, spoke about her responsibilities and urged people to contact her with their reactions to the project. Ms. Edwards revealed that there were about 100 responses so far and 70% were unfavourable. That left 30% favourable which struck the attendees as strange. Who ever heard of people writing to *praise* a large building project, especially since details of the exterior features are not yet available?

As can be seen, this process allows the developer or the developer's agents to describe the project and present its merits with fellow architects, the city planning department, the councillor, and residents and business owners who will be affected. The residents and business owners have a chance to see the plans in their entirety and present their points with the city planner in charge, the developer, Action Sandy Hill, and the councillor. It sounds fair and above board. However, questions remain.

What made the developer think that an 18-storey tower would be acceptable to Sandy Hill residents when they were expecting four to six storeys as specified in the Uptown Rideau Community Design Plan?

And who were the thirty respondents who wrote to the City praising this project? Were they residents of Sandy Hill?

Is it wrong to suspect that council will view the opinions of the UPDP and the value of increased tax revenue to be more appealing than the views of the residents?

Check out the next meetings of the City Planning Committee. They will make a recommendation on Richcraft's application to Council. The City of Ottawa web site shows that regular meetings of the Planning Committee are scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 9:30 a.m.

Conversions

Continued from page 1

At the Action Sandy Hill Annual General Meeting in May, positions on the Board were filled with new members, new intentions, and fresh energy. The ASH planning committee alone now has more than 15 members all willing to do something to stop what appears to be a trend—the gradual but steady departure of families and the ever expanding population of students or, as some say, "young professionals."

The city planning branch has 10 months to find a way to write bylaws that allow intensification while respecting the policies in the Sandy Hill secondary official plan:

- To preserve and enhance Sandy Hill as an attractive residential neighbourhood, especially for family living.
- To provide for a broad range of socio-economic groups.
- To accept a modest increase in population, primarily as a way of housing some of the growth in the Central Area labour force.
- To maintain and co-ordinate both the local functions of Sandy Hill (primarily as a residential neighbourhood) and the functions that serve a wider area (e.g., the main street mixed uses area along Rideau Street and the University of Ottawa).

Let us hope that the next Jane's Walk does not include a tour of the conversions of Sandy Hill and let us hope that good sense and planning expertise close the door on unintended bunkhouses like some of the ones illustrated at right.

45 Blackburn Ave.,
before
(right) and
after (below)
conversion.



91 Sweetland,
post-conversion

History of the project

Steps through which the developer, the City and the community have moved up to the May 8, 2013 meeting. Although some dates are approximate, the order is correct.

2002

Richcraft purchased the properties at 560 Rideau Street and 501 Besserer Street.

2003

Richcraft proposed a nine-storey structure on the Rideau frontage - approved by City Council.

2004

Decision was appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) by neighbours, supported by Action Sandy Hill. OMB decided in favour of Richcraft - withheld issuance of its order until a site plan agreement made. That apparently has not yet happened.

2011

Richcraft purchased the properties at 538 and 544 Rideau Street.

February 2013

Richcraft (through Rod Lahey) made a proposal to the Urban Planning Review Panel to build condos on the Rideau and Besserer Street properties. The UPRP is a panel of twelve volunteer architects who assist the city by reviewing developer's plans. Apparently, the UPRP thought that Richcraft's plan to construct a continuous nine-storey building nearly the length of a Rideau Street block was rather bulky and lacking in grandeur. In response, Richcraft proposed the 18-storey tower at Rideau and Cobourg plus other seven- and four-storey buildings.

March 2013

Richcraft applied for zoning changes as well as changes to the community design plans to increase building height from six storeys (the current zoning on that property) to an 18-storey tower on the western sector. Additionally proposed were a four-storey apartment townhouse on the Besserer Street frontage and a seven-storey building on the eastern part of the property. City notified the councillor and Action Sandy Hill of the application.

March 25, 2013

Proposal presented at the Action Sandy Hill monthly meeting. Eighteen neighbours also attended. This design requires changes to zoning, and amendments to the Official, Secondary, and Uptown Rideau Plans.

April 28, 2013

ASH submitted comments to city planner Bliss Edwards, Councillor Mathieu Fleury, and the mayor. ASH praised the long-awaited beginning of Rideau Street renovation and the front plaza, the large windows on the Rideau Street side, and the design of the one-storey podium linking all of the buildings. The tower height, however, was "grossly excessive," the five-storey podium too high, density not justified and the façade design too sleek and quickly dated, not in keeping with the "main street" designation or the neighbourhood generally. ASH opposed the application to amend the Sandy Hill Secondary Plan and the Uptown Rideau Community Design Plan to allow the increase in height and density.



Action Sandy Hill Annual Meeting, 2013

Lively election for Board of Directors

Jane McNamara

It was a hotly contested campaign for positions on the Action Sandy Hill Board of Directors this year. No recent member of the ASH Board can remember when an actual election was held to fill Board positions. However, some long-time Sandy Hillers do remember lively elections back in the 1990s.

There are 16 positions on the ASH Board of Directors. This year ten vacancies needed to be filled. Five positions are held by incumbents in the middle of their two-year term: Christopher Collmorgen, Sam Almsaddi, Jane Gurr, Kyle Simunovic, and Elaine Koren. One position on the Board is reserved for a representative from the University of Ottawa Students' Federation who nominated Christopher Hynes this year. In previous years any vacancies were filled by a slate put together by present Board members and acclaimed

at the AGM. For the first time in many years a real election was held with fourteen Sandy Hill residents vying for the ten positions. To assist ASH members in decision making, the nominations committee emailed members the candidate statements in advance of the May 16th AGM. When people arrived at the meeting and renewed or took out new memberships in our community association, they received a ballot listing the fourteen candidates.

The election was scheduled to take place at 9 p.m. but started closer to 10:30 because there were so many people at the meeting with concerns about pressures on our neighbourhood. One delay was due to a new motion approved by the membership to repeal the bylaw that allowed non-residents who own a business in Sandy Hill to be qualified as a Director of ASH. Up to three non-resident business owners were allowed to sit on the Board in a bylaw change approved



Photo Jane Waterson

These seven Sandy Hill residents joined the Action Sandy Hill board for the first time this spring. A number are already chairing committees. Pictured above are (top row, l-r) Bob Forbes, Michael Marin, Suneeta Millington, Chad Rollins; (front, l-r) Sally Southey, student rep Chris Hynes and Yves LeBouthillier.

Action Sandy Hill Directors 2013-14

Christopher Collmorgen, Goulburn Ave.. Term expires May 2014. *President, Representative for Town & Gown Full Committee, Housing WG and Strategic Initiatives WG*

Sam Almsaddi, Stewart Street Term expires May 2014. *Vice-President*

Kyle Simunovic, Rideau Street Term expires May 2014. *Treasurer*

Éric Audet, Chapel St Term expires May 2015

Sophie Beecher, Henderson Ave. Term expires May 2015. *Zoning Sub-Committee Co-Chair*

Bob Forbes, Marlborough Ave. Term expires May 2015. *Representative for Town & Gown Committee*

Jane Gurr, Range Road Term expires May 2014

Chris Hynes, University Private Term expires May 2014. *SFUO Representative*

Elaine Koren, Blackburn Ave. Term expires May 2014

Alice Kwong, Goulburn Ave. Term expires May 2015

Yves Le Bouthillier, Blackburn Ave. Term expires May 2015. *Governance Committee Co-Chair, Zoning Sub-Committee Co-Chair*

Michael Marin, Stewart St. Term expires May 2015. *Governance Committee Co-Chair*

Suneeta Millington, Augusta St. Term expires May 2015

Chad Rollins, Cobourg St. Term expires May 2015. *Planning Committee Co-Chair*

Sally Southey, Daly Ave. Term expires May 2015. *Bylaw Enforcement and Community Environment Committee Co-Chair*

John Verbaas, Wilbrod St. Term expires May 2015. *Transportation Committee Co-Chair*

at the ASH AGM in 2012. In the slate of candidates at last year's meeting, one non-resident, Sam Almsaddi was elected to the Board. Now many ASH residents have become aware that Mr. Almsaddi owns and operates several rental houses in the neighbourhood and also sits on the ASH Planning Committee.

The election was conducted by Juliet Knapton, a former ASH Director. Nominations from the floor were invited but there were none. Candidates were invited to make a brief presentation on why they were running and what they could contribute to tackle issues facing ASH and Sandy Hill residents. Almost all of the fourteen candidates stressed that they love Sandy Hill because of its central location near parks, water and lots of city amenities, and its heritage, as well as the diversity of our population which includes families, seniors, students, and embassies which makes it a lively and interesting place to live. Most stated that they were concerned about development pressures facing our community, especially conversions of family homes to student "bunkhouses," and the loss of families as a result of issues like noise and garbage that are increasing with the increase in numbers and size of rental housing all around us due to the University of Ottawa's growing student population and lack of residences to house them. Many were also concerned about the upcoming redevelopment of Rideau Street and the threat of high-rise developments near the heritage district of north Sandy Hill. The theme became a call to join all sections of Sandy Hill to work together to battle two fronts that are threatening our neighbourhood – from the University to the west and the anticipated condo development on the north. All of the candi-

dates were highly qualified and motivated to make a difference to make Sandy Hill a better place to live.

It was a tough decision for the remaining ASH members to check off only ten names on the ballot. Many people had left the meeting before the election but were able to leave their completed ballots when they left. After people voted, the majority left the meeting without waiting to hear the results because it was so late at night. The nominations committee then proceeded to count the ballots and another hour dragged by before they announced that there was a tie for one of the ten positions and that they would have to count the ballots again. In the end, they recounted the ballots four times.

The results were finally announced at 11:45 p.m. with nine candidates elected and two candidates tied for one position. The nine people elected are incumbents Eric Audet, Alice Kwong, John Verbaas, and new members Bob Forbes, Suneeta Millington, Michael Marin, Chad Rollins, Sally Southey, and Yves Le Bouthillier. Tied for one position were Sophie Beecher (incumbent) and Doug Ainslie.

After the meeting ASH membership services sent an email message to the membership list announcing the results along with the information that the tie will be resolved by a second vote to be conducted electronically. The email said: "Please give the membership committee a week (hopefully shorter) to update the list of members so that we may email the ballot out to all members including those who signed up/renewed at the AGM." An electronic ballot using Survey Monkey was sent out to members on May 23 and Sophie Beecher was elected. All other candidates were thanked and strongly encouraged to join an ASH committee.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE ANNUELLE

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Ce qui compte.

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Place • Lieu
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CSC Côte-de-Sable

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La députée provinciale, Madeleine Meilleur, exprime sa perspective sur les pressions dans le quartier lors de l'Assemblée générale annuelle d'Action Côte-de-Sable. Derrière elle on voit Alice Kwong, membre du comité exécutif, Juliet Knapton, présidente de l'assemblée, et Louise Shaughnessy.

Une communauté bien vivante!

Marie-Claude Jean

L'assemblée générale d'Action Côte-de-Sable n'avait jamais enregistré autant de présences que lors de sa tenue du 16 mai dernier. Cette recrudescence d'intérêt s'explique par la menace que les résidents perçoivent dans les projets de construction à l'intérieur du quartier, particulièrement en ce qui a trait à la conversion de résidences unifamiliales en maisons comptant un grand nombre de chambres. Plusieurs craignent que ces changements affectent directement le sain équilibre qui existe dans notre milieu de vie grâce à la diversité chèrement appréciée qui le caractérise, d'où la mobilisation qu'on a pu observer. On peut se douter qu'un sujet aussi délicat était susceptible de voir les esprits s'échauffer entre partis ayant des intérêts différents sur la question.

À titre de résidente de la Côte-de-Sable, je viens témoigner de mon appréciation du climat dans lequel cette soirée s'est déroulée. Outre le respect dont toutes les personnes présentes ont fait preuve envers les idées exprimées par leurs concitoyens, on doit le succès de la soirée à l'excellent travail accompli par tous ceux qui étaient en charge de cette réunion. Je songe ici à la préparation effectuée en vue de la rencontre qui a largement facilité la bonne marche des choses : ordre du jour, clair et bien détaillé; documents d'information importants qu'on nous avait fait circuler au préalable; comptes rendus soignés et complets qui avaient été élaborés par les responsables des divers secteurs d'activité, par les présentateurs invités et par les candidats aux élections; service d'accueil et d'information à l'entrée et

organisation de la salle. Je veux surtout reconnaître le leadership remarquable que la modératrice, Juliet Knapton, a démontré dans sa façon de mener le déroulement de cette soirée. Elle a en effet su s'affirmer de façon très professionnelle et utiliser son bon jugement pour nous guider efficacement à travers les points à couvrir conformément à l'ordre du jour établi. Grâce à elle, je pense que la plupart d'entre nous avons quitté la soirée satisfaits des résultats accomplis.

Enfin, ma présence à cette assemblée générale m'a permis de constater le fort attachement que les résidents et résidentes de la Côte-de-Sable partagent envers leur quartier et de renforcer ma confiance en leur détermination à veiller sur son avenir. La brochette impressionnante des personnes élues pour travailler au sein du comité exécutif d'Action Côte-de-Sable vient accentuer ce sentiment. Je profite d'ailleurs de l'occasion pour les féliciter chaleureusement : Robert Forbes, Chris Hynes, Yves Le Bouthillier, Michael Marin, Suneeta Millington, Chad Rollins, Sally Southey, Sophie Beecher et pour les remercier du dévouement qu'ils mettront à veiller au maintien de la qualité de vie dans notre quartier.

Pour conclure, je veux saluer la contribution extraordinaire des Directeurs qui, au cours de la dernière année, ont consacré un nombre incalculable d'heures à servir notre communauté : ceux pour qui le mandat s'achève : François Bregha, Éric Crighton, Julie Crêteau, Liz Kessler, Claire MacDonald et ceux qui poursuivent leur mandat : Sam Almsaddi, Éric Audet, Christopher Collmorgen, Jane Gurr, Elaine Koren, Alice Kwong, Kyle Simunovic et John Verbass.

Leanne Moussa
Volunteer of the Year

How do you connect a heritage carriage house to daycare and learning?

Claire MacDonald

There must be something in the water at Viscount Alexander Elementary School. This year's Action Sandy Hill Volunteer of the Year, Leanne Moussa, is a parent from Viscount, as was last year's award winner, Cristine Elrick. Cristine as in leafy Viscount campus, traffic safety and walking school bus. Volunteerism in Sandy Hill shows us there is much to love about our neighbourhood.

Even if you don't actually know Leanne Moussa, you likely have seen her in the neighbourhood walking along with many little hands holding on tightly to the sides of a child's cart on wheels, or little bodies lingering behind the cart in reverie, or lively little legs jumping ahead with attentive supervision, and even some little sleepy heads taking a break within the all-protective carriage. Look carefully, they may not all be her own children but a mix of local kids getting walked from one activity to the next in a very neighbourly fashion.

Leanne is someone who is thinking ahead of how to make this neighbourhood as vibrant and livable as possible. For instance—she is in the planning stages of initiating a music program at Viscount with The Leading Note Foundation's Orkidstra, empowering kids, building community. She's got the pieces in place for what comes next, instruments to boot. Also, you need some space for those extracurricular music sessions? She is on the look-out to help you locate space near to those who can walk to lessons and capitalize on what they are getting at the local schools. How about extending a friendly hand to the Islamic Society of Strathcona Heights? Yes, she knows someone local who can connect them up with the Interfaith Ottawa group. You're picking up garbage in the park? Not only do you get Leanne's help but you get her family's support as well, making light work with many hands, all smiles.

And talking of carriages and young children, how do you keep a community asset such as the Bettye Hyde Nursery School in our midst? Leanne has put together a solution that brings together all

Photo Larry Newman



Outgoing Action Sandy Hill director Claire MacDonald paid tribute to Leanne Moussa's dedication to a child-friendly neighbourhood in general, and to the Bettye Hyde carriage house project in particular. Leanne also managed, during the past year, to complete her Master's thesis.

her community connections and on-street savvy: the Carriage House Child and Family Wellness Centre at 43 Blackburn Ave. You've read about it in IMAGE and other papers. What I want to say here is how smart and green this project is and how it keeps us vibrant in a neighbourly sort of way. And guess what? If you have questions or concerns, you have neighbours who have signed on with Leanne's leadership. I really don't know if it gets more local than that. Well, you can sign on too! This is a first drawing card to our neighbourhood...by neighbours. We're on our way to define ourselves as a family-friendly walkable network. And as Leanne says, "Live, walk, bike...love Sandy Hill." Her motto is infectious.

And while there is much yet to do to get the Carriage House up and ready for play and business, it is exciting to think what may be the next community project around the corner. Leanne is giving us some direction to put our own imprint on how we want to see our community grow. This is big stuff happening on our urban village-like streets.

How do you connect a heritage carriage to daycare and learning? Ask Leanne for the innovative template.

I think again of the little hands all holding on tightly as Leanne pushes that cart ahead. And that gives me pause to smile, and to reach out a hand.



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Le français correct ✓✓✓

par Denyse Mulvihill

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

On doit dire :

> **Avoir l'occasion d'agir**, qui signifie « avoir la chance de dire, de faire quelque chose, saisir le moment d'agir » - non pas - avoir l'opportunité, qui signifie « le caractère de ce qui arrive à propos, au moment précis. »

Ex. - *Quand cet officier de marine a l'occasion de se retrouver en compagnie d'anciens collègues de travail, il se comporte toujours selon les règles de conduite qui font partie intégrale de son entraînement militaire.*

> **Être constant dans ses actes**, qui signifie « être ferme, assidu, persévérant, invariables » - non pas - être consistant, qui signifie « être épais, visqueux, figé, ce qui est réservé, en général, aux aliments ou aux objets divers. »

Ex. - *Pour les parents qui prennent une décision concernant la conduite de leurs enfants, ils se doivent d'être constants dans leurs exigences auprès d'eux, autant que dans la sage modération de leurs compliments ou de leurs reproches, quand il y a lieu d'en faire.*

> **Se classer le meilleur**, qui signifie « obtenir la première place, atteindre la note la plus haute dans un concours, triompher dans un exercice quelconque » - non pas - être le numéro un, ce qui est un anglicisme.

Ex. - *C'est l'élève le plus jeune d'une école isolée et sans prétention qui s'est classé le meilleur dans le récent concours oratoire auquel participaient toutes les écoles de la ville.*

> **Rendre un service à quelqu'un**, qui signifie « prodiguer une aide à quelqu'un, lui fournir son appui » - non pas - faire une faveur à quelqu'un, qui signifie « procurer un avantage privilégié à quelqu'un de spécial, en invoquant sa propre situation d'autorité. »

Ex. - *Lorsque la responsable des Services sociaux de la région a décidé de rendre un service pécuniaire considérable et immédiat à une jeune mère dans un sérieux besoin, ce n'était certes pas pour lui faire une faveur préférentielle.*

> **Prendre une décision de bonne augure**, qui signifie « prendre une décision qui présage un résultat avantageux » - non pas - ça regarde bien, ce qui est un anglicisme.

Ex. - *Après avoir assisté au procès d'un assassin notoire, l'étudiant en droit civil a pris la décision de se spécialiser plutôt en droit criminel, ce qui, pour lui, fut une décision de bonne augure vu son talent en rhétorique et sa facilité de parole doublée d'une voix agréable.*

> **Obtenir des avantages sociaux**, qui signifie « acquérir les éléments qui s'ajoutent au contrat de travail » - non pas - obtenir des bénéfices marginaux, ce qui est un anglicisme.

Ex. - *Les ouvriers de carrière et d'expérience qui travaillent dans une importante compagnie d'exploitation minière ont obtenu des avantages sociaux substantiels dans leur nouvelle convention collective.*

> **Observer une loi ou un règlement est utile, commode et rend service**, qui signifie « obéir à une loi, un décret émis par une autorité légitime est essentiel et normal » - non pas - ça aide, ce qui est un anglicisme.

Ex. - *La loi, le règlement sur le contrôle de la vitesse automobile dans le voisinage des écoles en est une utile, commode et obligatoire en plus d'être essentielle pour la protection des enfants comme des adultes, en autant qu'elle soit respectée et en autant que les infractions soient taxées de fortes amendes.*

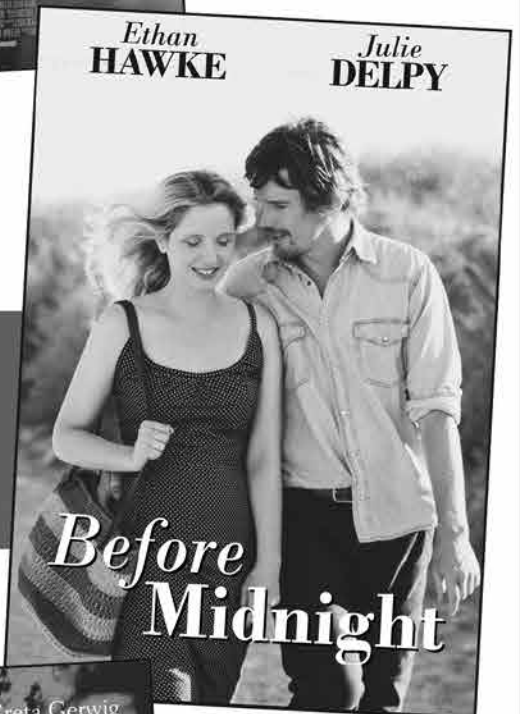
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What's happening at the corner of Rideau and Charlotte?



Last fall, after exhaustive negotiations, Richcraft Homes promised to build a parkette (on the property at the corner of Rideau and Charlotte) in return for permission to demolish several derelict buildings, well before the site will be developed, and in return for property tax reductions. The park was to have been completed no later than mid-November but, as the above photo demonstrates, it is now almost the following summer and the area is a pedestrian shortcut and mud lot with sagging winter fence.

Richcraft recently proposed to place a condo sales centre on part of the park site (with suggestion that the park part of the property would be maintained longer than the agreed-to three years). But after three community meetings and unanimous opposition to a sales trailer, Richcraft has promised that the park will be completed by July 1!



Jubilant Carriage House supporters Lenore Glémaud, Leanne Moussa, Rob Sieloff and Claire MacDonald after the June 12 rezoning hearing at City Hall.

Carriage House zoning application approved

Susan McLeod

The mission to keep Bettye Hyde Nursery School in the neighbourhood just moved a step closer to success. In order for the nursery school to relocate to 43 Blackburn Avenue, known as the Carriage House, a key hurdle was that the property be rezoned. Approval of this application to amend the zoning by-law was granted at Planning Committee on May 28, to go before City Council for final approval on June 12. This will permit the conversion of the residential home into an institutional facility. Specifically, the site will preserve its "Residential 4-storey" zone provisions but have added to it "Day Care, Office and Community Health and Resource Centre" as permitted uses, while requesting that "rooming house" be removed as an allowable use. This clears the way for Bettye Hyde Nursery School to operate a childcare facility on the ground floor with child health-care professional offices located on the second level. (See IMAGE issues December 2012- January 2013 and February-March 2013 for related articles.)

The community group driving the initiative is thrilled. Leanne Moussa, President of the group, breathed a sigh of relief as she noted that the non-refundable application fee, of \$15,000 was not in vain. "Applying for a zoning change is a serious financial undertaking. In addition to the application fee we paid professional fees related to architectural plans, survey documents, an Adequacy of Services report and the planning rationale. That's all money lost if our application is turned down." Moussa and her fellow project backers had worked hard to ensure the application would be approved. From a community meeting to briefings with Councillor Fleury to one-on-one conversations with neighbours, the group widely shared their vision and sought to address any objections. The appearance before Planning Committee was cheered on by about 20 well-wishers from the neighbourhood. While several dozen letters of support were submitted, a few objections were tabled, as well, that expressed con-

cerns related to parking and to bilingual signage.

In its application, the group underscored the neighbourhood service provided by this child wellness centre. This means that a large portion of its client base is expected to walk or cycle to the facility. For this, stroller and bicycle parking facilities will be provided. For those who drive, there will be a 15-minute drop-off zone and two parking spaces for clients, but staff will be expected to arrange their own off-site parking, as required. By keeping parking spaces to a minimum the facility will be able to maximize the existing green space surrounding the house.

The next step in the development process will be to secure building permits to launch the laborious task of converting a private residence into a daycare facility.

The cost of conversion promises to be high. Bettye Hyde Co-operative Nursery School, a not-for-profit charitable organization, is hopeful of securing funding made available by the province to help childcare agencies adapt their businesses to the new reality of full-day kindergarten. This funding is being administered by the City of Ottawa, and may help offset construction costs associated with accommodating the childcare facility. In addition, the group, incorporated as SHO Developments, is open to additional investors. For more information on becoming involved in this project please email Leanne Moussa at Leannemoussa@gmail.com or call her at 613 282-8900.

For those wishing to support this visionary community initiative but who are not positioned to buy a share in the corporation, Bettye Hyde Nursery School is fundraising to buy its own share. Donations are welcome. In return, a tax receipt will be issued. If interested in helping Bettye Hyde Co-operative Nursery School achieve its fundraising objective, kindly contact Cindy Mitchell at 613-236-3108 or email bettyehydeottawa@gmail.com.

Stay tuned, also, for news of upcoming fundraising events such as a Savour Sandy Hill Food and Wine Show in winter 2014.



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Block Reps

Action Sandy Hill is creating a system of block representatives that aims to engage the residents in community issues and neighbourhood events.

If you are interested in representing your block please email info@ash-acs.ca



Don't let the dust deter you: good food still lives on Rideau Street

Paula Kelsall

Roadwork on Rideau Street continues along the northern boundary of Sandy Hill this summer, and the blocks from King Edward east to Chapel have become a dusty no-man's land. While the thought of trudging a block or two out of our way just to cross the street (and getting gravel in our shoes while we're at it) is rather off-putting, maybe we should all be thinking of opportunities to encourage the businesses on this stretch of our neighbourhood's border as they endure what will surely be a very difficult summer.

It may be dusty outside, but from the air conditioned interior of a restaurant it's really quite fascinating to watch the big machines at work, and if you have small children to entertain, those dump trucks and backhoes can actually be seen as a huge bonus.

At **Ever Afters** (319 Rideau St., in the Days Inn), there's a big window facing right onto the action, and there's a great lunchtime special to go with the view: \$7.00 for a designer sandwich and a regular-sized drink, which can be chosen from a vast menu of bubble teas and other

beautiful beverages. Roast chicken with roasted peppers and crisp bacon on a pesto bun, accompanied by a beautiful glass full of mango slush and inky-coloured tapioca pearls make for an exotic, healthy and delicious meal.

In the evening, when the dust has settled, consider an affordable dinner from one of Sandy Hill's reliable ethnic restaurants. Settle into the upholstered comfort of the **Sitar** (417A Rideau St.) for fish masala and a lassi, a meal that will alternately stimulate and soothe your taste buds, and leave you feeling happy. Or take a really close look at the roadwork's progress after working hours are over from the front porch of the **Horn of Africa** (364 Rideau St.), while steeping your fingers in the delicious Ethiopian lentil stews that come with the vegetarian platter. If you want to forget what's going on in the street, step into **Mu Goong Hwa** (376 Rideau St.), where paper shades will shield your view as you partake of tempura and Korean-style short ribs.

Along with music festivals and nine o'clock sunsets, roadwork is part of the Ottawa summer scene. This summer, let it lure you to Rideau Street to see what's going on and to indulge in something delicious.



A ringside view of construction awaits you at Ever Afters (above) and other Rideau St. restaurants this summer.



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Ottawa Carleton District School Board Trustee Report

Budget

Budget season is here again and the draft budget is on our web site for your review. If you have any suggestions for improving it, let me know. Some version of it will be approved mid-June. The draft staff budget makes for interesting reading; a budget is an expression of a Board's priorities and the narrative can be fascinating.



Rob Campbell, Trustee
Ottawa-Carleton District School Board

Our board has been accumulating surpluses for some years now due to overcautious budgeting. We now have \$43 million in idle surplus. This is embarrassing as only some of this is needed for smooth functioning and it is all taxpayer money raised to support students. We've been trying to stop accumulating surpluses using planned deficits, but they keep on coming. I have joked that if we do not take serious steps to correct the situation, we will never dig ourselves out of this surplus hole!

In part these surpluses are due to: an extraordinary staff caution re budget estimating and in-year spending, surprise mid-year grants by the Provincial government, and increased financial oversight exerted by Trustees. Two years ago, I got a technical motion through which placed a limit on how much money staff could swim between budget lines between board-voted budgets, without coming back to the Board. It had become an unfortunate practice to regularly bring in high departmental estimates, get the budget passed, inevitably find significant money was not needed, and then go allocate these millions in ways not actually reviewed by the Board.

Due in part to this new leash, sharper pens have started to prevail re departmental estimates, and significant unspent funds must now instead return to general surplus for reallocation, or for special in-year recommendation by staff to the Board. Changing the estimating and spending culture entirely will take time but with the current budget we are starting to see more precise initial estimates, as part of our "attack on the surplus."

I have several targeted questions on the budget and likely will be supporting a move to add more school budget for underprivileged schools and for social workers. Otherwise, I broadly believe staff has got the balance right. Next budget, however, I will want to see more needs-based allocations from the get-go.

Equity Accountability re Poverty

I have got a motion passed at Committee (now off to Board) which will require the District to publicly report annually on how well, or not, we are weakening the connection between poverty and student outcome.

Ensuring there is socio-economic equity of educational outcome is core to our mission for publicly funded education, and yet no school board in Ontario yet reports out this way. I hope that we will agree to lead provincially in this domain as well.

I expect that, with such a directive in place, over time, we will see altered patterns of training and other investments as we strive to improve this major new public reportable. Further, this aligns with our efforts to improve average graduation rate and other District student achievement measures.

If you have a suggestion or a concern, then please contact me via rob@ocdsbzone9.ca or at 613-323-7803. Meeting and document info available at www.ocdsb.ca



News from Viscount Alexander

Michael Barnes

April and May at Viscount Alexander Public School have been busy and eventful!

Capital cleaners: We did our part to clean up the Capital! The students picked up garbage around the school, at Strathcona Park, the baseball diamond, and Sandy Hill Arena!

Musical highlights: Students in grades one to six walked to the National Arts Centre at the beginning of May to see the NAC orchestra. The theme was Adventures in Canada's North. They enjoyed throat singers, a traditional drummer, a storyteller, child dancers, and some wonderful scores played by the orchestra. We made music together with students across Canada and many countries on Music Monday by singing the song *Is Somebody Singing* written and performed by Commander Chris Hadfield from the International Space Station and Ed Robertson from the group The Barenaked Ladies. The song was broadcast live on the internet at 12:30 that day and the children not only sang along with our own astronaut and musician, they were also joined by the Wexford Gleeks from the Toronto District School Board.

Walking to school: During Education Week we let our feet do the walking with Walk to School Week. Students were challenged to walk to school instead of taking the bus, and over 80% of students participated. On Friday May 10, our Golden Flip Flop award was awarded to the school age class with the most walkers over the week. Congratulations to Mrs. Contant's class, who have swept the year of all the golden footwear awards! In our Full Day Kindergarten classes, a Golden Sandal was awarded to our Junior Kindergarten class, taught by Mrs. Lance, Mrs. Mills and Mrs. Sole for the most walkers over the week.

Bike rodeo: Our biggest event happened over a couple of days with Helmet Day and our 3rd Annual Bike Rodeo. Public Health Nurse Bev Wilcox gave a presentation about brain injury prevention and showed students how to properly adjust and wear their bicycle helmets. At the Bike Rodeo, children learned the rules

of the road while riding their bikes. Special thanks to the Bytown Kiwanis Club for their donation that helps support this great initiative. Thanks go also to the Public Safety Council for setting up the bike stations, Sandy Hill Community Health Centre for providing extra bikes, bells, and volunteer support, Cycle Salvations for providing bikes for children without one, Kunststadt Sports for helmets and locks, our Repair Station volunteers during the Rodeo, and Seven Star for helmets. Additional thanks to Ottawa University Co-op, Green Communities Canada, Capital Vélo, and parent volunteers. The school received used bikes from the community which were donated back into the community to children in need. It is a great example of our community partnerships and their awesome impact on student safety and learning!

Next school year: We have also started our planning for our 2013-2014 school year. Parents are reminded that Kindergarten registration for 2013-2014 is still open. To register your child, you need to bring the child's record of immunization and birth or baptismal certificate, passport or any other document indicating their proof of age. If you have a neighbour with a child 4 or 5 years of age by the end of 2013, please invite them to register at Viscount Alexander Public School, for more information, call the school office at 613-239-2213.

We are very pleased to announce that our Extended Day Program is growing for 2013-2014. Starting in September our school's extended day program will be available available for older students as well as our Kindergarten students. It provides before and after school programming to students registered within the school. The extended day program operates from 7 a.m. to the start of the school day and from the end of our school day until 6 p.m. Parents may register their child for the morning, afternoon, or both. The fee for the program is \$20 per day for both before and after school care. Applications for our Extended Day Program are available in the school office. Limited financial assistance is available for families that meet the criteria for eligibility for a child care subsidy. For information call the City of Ottawa at 613-560-6000.

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Lowertown

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The first "psychogeographic" tour of Sandy Hill was a great success this spring.

Little Flâneurs in Sandy Hill

Christine Aubry

On Sunday May 5, over 30 children from Sandy Hill, along with their parents and families, took part in a very special Jane's Walk called "Little Flâneurs."

Jane's Walk is an annual event named after Jane Jacobs, writer and urban activist, who initiated walking tours of urban neighbourhoods. This year there were 54 Jane's Walks planned throughout Ottawa, but the one in our neighbourhood was unusual in that it was targeted at children and led by children. Local resident and mom Sandra MacPherson came up with the idea of engaging children from Bettye Hyde Nursery School in what she calls a "psychogeographic tour of the neighbourhood." The goal was to get children out in the neighbourhood and see how they would express their thoughts about walking in the community and what feelings would be stirred up.

MacPherson, a PhD student at the University of Ottawa studying urban walking in literature, approached the Bettye Hyde school with her idea for a flâneurs walk (flâneur is a 19th century French concept meaning "city walkers" or "strollers"). She was enthusiastically supported by Director Cindy Mitchell as well as teachers Janet LeBlanc, Lisa Lajoie and Keisha Oliver-Perryman. The first Little Flâneurs walk was organized in November 2012 with 3 groups of 6-8 year olds leading children ages 4-5 and was a very successful trial.

And so, on a beautiful Sunday afternoon, our young guides (Hannah, 8, Leo, 8 and Abby, 9), assisted by flag-bearing marshals (Eddie, Sabir and Simon) took us on an hour-long tour of Sandy Hill, stopping to show us some pretty neat and cool things along the way. On Blackburn Avenue, we stopped to look at the bird houses that our guide described as "a whole city for birds, with the big white house being Parliament in bird land." Further on Blackburn we saw a front garden with interesting statues that made Leo think of "a group of dogs playing Dr Dodgeball." While stopped in front of the Sandy Hill Lounge and Grill to notice the dog treat bowl, Hannah pointed out the newly renovated Ayoub's Mini Mart and explained how it had burned down a few years ago and how bad that made her feel.

On Goulburn Avenue we stopped to study the architectural differences of the front porches of what



The child-run Jane's Walk found much to admire at the corner of Range and Mann.

the kids referred to as the "double twin" houses. Then along Templeton we appreciated what they called "the most beautiful garden in Sandy Hill" that was at the time bursting with colourful tulips. On Templeton was also the most popular stop along the walk: a front porch with a mommy and baby duck statue as well as a rubber boot used as a flower pot. As we continued, we saw mushrooms in trees, a red crocodile on a front lawn on Marlborough, and of course, the "peace house" on the corner of Range Road. Abby then took us across the street where she said, "I think the owner of the peace house put sweaters on the trees to make them happy."

The children then led us down the river path to talk about the forest and the trees. We stopped to feed some ducks on the way to our final destination in Strathcona Park where everyone enjoyed homemade lemonade and chocolate chip cookies baked by Sandra herself. Since a flâneur may also be an artist inspired by the urban environment, the children were encouraged to paint what they saw along the walk on one of several murals.

With a total of 75 participants, this Sandy Hill walk was the second most attended Jane's Walk in the Ottawa area and was definitely a huge success with children and parents alike. One young walker, Orelie (11), captured the overall sentiment by exclaiming, "tout était vraiment original!" When asked whether next year the walk could be bilingual, Sandra replied that she is already looking at developing a French version of the walk with the help of parents at Francojeunesse, and who knows, maybe in the future there could even be walks in other languages. Anyone interested in helping to organize these future walks can contact Sandra MacPherson at slmacpherson@yahoo.com.



Feedback from a participant.

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August 10 – with Art in the Park, in the north section of Strathcona Park
September 21 – at the ASH Community BBQ, Sandy Hill Community Centre Park, 11am to 4pm

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Peddalling through time

Graeme Hunter



The author and "Frankenbike" on their
way to time-travelling adventure.

Everybody knows. In fair weather the city offers herself to avid bikers. Trails and bikeways make every corner accessible, often in less time, and always with less exasperation, than driving or busing involve. Lush, exciting paths invite you to woodland or pastoral landscapes hidden from the eyes of motorists, yet within the limits of the city they believe they know. Beyond these urban destinations lie day trips to places farther afield, and overnight journeys take you to the limits of your stamina and interest.

All these delights are well-known to bikers, but bikes make possible another joy not many have discovered. I call it *time-travel*.

When you are on a bicycle you move at about the pace people did a couple of centuries back, when our communities were planned and built. You also use the roads our ancestors made, on which their settlements grew and thrived, until highways made them obsolete. Thus, the places you bike through are historic ones, now struggling to find new hope and promise. Faded hopes and promises lie strewn in melancholy traces along your path. At the speed I go on my old bicycle I see them all.

For example, only the name of Ramsayville remains on the Ramsayville road, and you're a little disappointed to find nowhere to sit or walk but the former churchyard, now orphaned and insecure without its church. That's why René's Corner Store in Piperville is so welcome, with bench and chair to loiter on in front of the establishment. A few minutes on the bench looking over verdant fields is a pleasure after an hour or more in the saddle. Later you can step inside the store, have something to drink, and chat with the friendly owner. Then it's on down the old Eighth Line to the picturesquely named village of Carlsbad Springs.

I am overtaken on the way by a buzzing swarm of spandex-clad cyclists from a city club. Each pair of whizzing tires is topped by a little knot of pumping sinew. They chirp at one another like a flock of birds as they surge by. Up the hill they fly, faster than I will go coming down. By the time I puff my way to the top they will be out of sight. But I was invisible to them as they passed, for we belong to different centuries. They are making time, not travelling in it as I am.

The restaurant I am looking forward to in Carlsbad Springs is visible from afar on the Eighth Line. A city slicker might not think the rambling faded structure worth the thirty minutes it would take to drive there from Ottawa, but a cyclist sees things differently. He's been on the way for a couple of hours and so he understands the old Greek saying, *there is no sauce like an appetite*. The menu, as it turns out, would make even city folks salivate.

Carlsbad Springs is full of bittersweet odds and ends. The name itself evokes the great era of European spas and sanatoriums that the German writer Thomas Mann depicted in *The Magic Mountain*. In the last decades of the nineteenth century, and the early ones of the twentieth, fine hotels in Europe used the highly mineralized water of local springs to draw wealthy visitors for relaxation and cures. Carlsbad Springs discovered it had the same resources and could put them to the same use. They borrowed their name from a famous Czech spa, built luxury hotels and prospered. But the society that wanted and could afford such extravagance did not return from Flanders and the Somme. Gradually those hotels disappeared after World War One. The large restaurant is the sole reminder of that opulent age. On the outskirts of town is the last sawmill, documenting for the visitor the more rustic employment in which the area's earliest settlers began.

Today's outing to Carlsbad Springs is a short one. After lunch it's back up the Russell Road to Ottawa. Along that road are more reminders of the gone world in which I have elected to travel. A farm house boarded up and its skeletal barns tell a story of inexorable change. Other farms, however, disagree. They cling to their soil, pungent with the odours of land and livestock and the fragrances of spring. These are the same smells that the people of my adopted century would have smelled, trudging down these same roads in this same season centuries ago.

Traffic and traffic lights impose themselves gradually as I approach town. I am glad of this, like a diver slowly decompressing as he reaches the surface. Gradually floating back up the shaft of memory I come into the noisy present with its city smells. The bike is the ideal mode of transportation here too, as more and more people realize. Of its aptness for time travel, however, not many seem yet to be aware.

Graeme Hunter bikes to the University of Ottawa where he teaches philosophy.

Garbage as an art form

Claire MacDonald

A green note of thanks to over 40 participants who came, on Saturday May 15, to Strathcona Park and Dutchy's Hole to keep our riverside park a beautiful place. These numbers don't include the many children at the local schools, Viscount Alexander and Francojeunesse, who go out in spring-time and pick up garbage on our behalf, on streets, at the arena and around their schools. A huge thank-you to all including the Islamic Society and Strathcona Heights who also came out to help in great numbers. Nouha at Ayoub's and Branislav at Timothy's gave us ready-to-serve refreshments..

This year Action Sandy Hill teamed up with the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre; special thanks to Geri Blinick who is our community coordinator. Geri very thoughtfully made hot chocolate on the spot to supplement the refreshments.

If you haven't already heard we found a bottled cobra in the park clean-up (see what you missed!) We are thinking that next time we should host a temporary art installation in the park of all the interesting finds. Because, let's face it, garbage is fascinating stuff and reflects our human nature.

And if you are wondering about the garbage that descends into the community gardens and along the hillside at Dutchy's Hole, it has to do with snow removal from above by the city. In this

case, not removal, just a dump. Councillor Fleury, attempted to deal with the issue last year but the dumping continues and much salt and debris clog the park and contaminate the soil. The councillor is to work out a solution.

There are photos on the ASH Flickr page showing more scenes of the clean up.



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Iain MacDonald
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Mathieu Fleury
Alanna Dale Hill
Islamic Society of
Sandy Hill
Viscount Alexander
Public School
École publique
Francojeunesse
And others who acted
independently to help
keep our neighbourhood
looking good !

Special Thank-you to Ayoub's who provided honey cakes and juice and Timothy's Coffee on
Laurier who provided coffee and everything required to serve out in the fresh air! It was greatly
appreciated by all.

La fièvre printanière à Francojeunesse !

Christine Aubry

En plus des nombreuses activités et compétitions qui se déroulent ce printemps (décrites ci-dessous), les élèves de Franco ont une raison de plus de bouger. Pour la première fois, l'école a participé au Gran défi Pierre Lavoie du 29 avril au 27 mai sous le thème « Lève-toi et bouge ! ». Pour ce concours (d'origine québécoise mais maintenant avec classements par région hors-Québec), tous les élèves doivent remplir un carnet d'activité physique et pour chaque 15 minutes d'activité, l'élève accumule un cube d'énergie. Au moment de l'impression de cet article, l'école est au 6^e rang au niveau provincial ! Pour plus de détails concernant ce concours, visitez le site www.le-vetoietbouge.com

Autre nouvelles sportives, les athlètes de Franco se sont encore une fois distingués aux quilles suédoises. Les deux équipes (filles et garçons) ont mérité une bannière pour l'école. La prochaine grande compétition sportive sera celle de l'athlétisme au sein du Conseil entier qui aura lieu le 13 juin avec les élèves méritants de 4^e, 5^e et 6^e. Nous souhaitons bonne chance à tous nos participants !

Les élèves de Franco se sont aussi démontrés très habiles en art oratoire. Au concours Art de s'exprimer du Club Optimiste de Vanier, qui a eu lieu le 7 avril dernier, parmi les 12 concurrents classés au niveau du district, nos élèves de 6^e ont remporté le 1^{er} prix (Nassim), 2^e prix (Clara) et 3^e prix (Raphael) ! Bravo à nos gagnants ainsi qu'à tous les élèves qui ont travaillé fort à préparer et présenter leurs textes devant les amis.

Le mois de mai fut bien animé, non seulement pour les élèves mais pour leurs familles aussi. D'abord, tous furent invités au concert annuel intergénérationnel de la chorale Francophonie le 2 mai. Puis, plusieurs activités amusantes et éducatives furent organisées dans le cadre de la Semaine de l'éducation, du 6 au 10 mai. À souligner :

- Les enseignants de musique du programme parascolaire ont organisé un spectacle pour tous mettant en vedette leurs élèves de guitare, de violon et de piano.
- Les élèves de la 1^{re} à la 6^e se sont dispersés dans la Côte-de-Sable pour ramasser les déchets le long des trottoirs dans l'esprit du « Grand nettoyage de la capitale »

Tentes fabriquées par les élèves pour le « camping littéraire ».



Pantoufles fabriquées par les élèves.

- Un concours de fabrication de pantoufles, les plus originales les unes que les autres, a pris place dans les deux pavillons.
- Les élèves de la 1^{re} à la 4^e ont participé à un « camping littéraire » dans la bibliothèque, en utilisant des serviettes de plage comme tentes, et avec leurs nouvelles pantoufles aux pieds.
- Tout le cycle préparatoire, ainsi que les enfants commençant la maternelle en septembre 2013, ont eu droit à un spectacle présenté par la troupe gatinoise « ARTISHOW » (www.artishow.com).

Le mois de mai s'est terminé en fête avec une Soirée multiculturelle le 30 mai, organisée par le Franconseil, qui avait comme but de faire connaître et célébrer diverses cultures qui se retrouvent à Francojeunesse. Les élèves et leurs familles furent invités à s'habiller de vêtements traditionnels et à se régaler d'une dégustation de plats divers. Une exposition d'objets culturels était aussi en place au gymnase.

Le mois de juin s'avère tout aussi excitant à Francojeunesse. Un comédien de la Vieille 17 sera présent à l'école pour effectuer des ateliers intensifs de théâtre auprès de la classe de Mme Raymond en 5^e. Et tandis que les 6^e se préparent à leur cérémonie de finissants, les sorties de fin d'année s'organisent : parc aquatique Calypso, Labyrinthe Ecodyssée, divers musées et parcs publics sont en vue, sans oublier le pique-nique traditionnel de fin d'année au parc Strathcona.

Finalement, nous tenons à souligner que la vente de fertilisant naturel continue, les profits servant à acheter du nouveau matériel technologique pour l'école. Ce fertilisant liquide à base de fumier de vers de terre doit simplement être ajouté à de l'eau lors de l'arrosage. Les bouteilles peuvent être obtenues sur commande ou en personne au Secrétariat du pavillon Osgoode au prix de 2,50 \$ la bouteille.

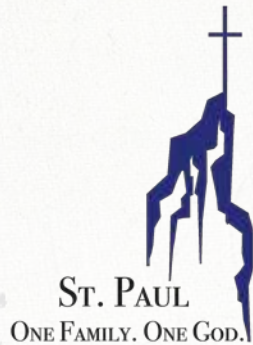


Sandy Hill Farmers Market, round 1

Sabrina Mathews, Rosemary Leach and Christine Aubry helped host the inaugural Farmers Market in Sandy Hill on June 4. All produce and delectables on offer were snapped up.

Thanks to convenor Susan Young and all the Farmers Market ladies who have been planning this venture at monthly sessions in the Sandy Hill pub. See the Calendar p. 19 for info on future neighbourhood markets.

Upcoming Events



Free. All are welcome.
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Thursday Evening Worship
7 PM Thursdays, June 20 – Aug 29
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Vacation Bible School
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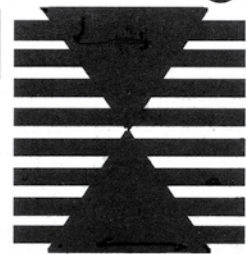
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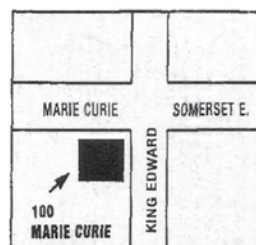
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Odyssey back for Theatre Under the Stars' 2013 edition



Sandy Hill is in for a chocolaty-delicious treat. This year, Odyssey Theatre's main outdoor show is George Bernard Shaw's comedy Arms and the Man (a.k.a. The Chocolate Soldier). Director Andy Massingham will be transforming the park into a surrealistic dreamscape, where bigger-than-life characters will be truly at home. Set during the 1885 Serbo-Bulgarian War, Arms and the Man is Shaw's sardonic critique of naive idealism, particularly, as it pertains to love and war. Shows July 25 to August 25, Tuesdays through Sundays at 8 p.m. New this year - matinees on Thursdays and Sundays at Ottawa University's Academic Hall (135 Séraphin-Marion Private) at 2:00 p.m. —Mark Turcott

Really good pork, anyone?

Dodi Newman

Have you noticed that pork has had an off-taste for quite a while? I have. It made no difference whether I bought a centre cut, bone-in loin roast, a tenderloin, or chops—they all had a sawdusty consistency, and flavour was sadly lacking. (This, by the way, has a lot to do with how commodity pigs are bred and raised.) So I stopped buying pork, which is a pity, because I love good pork, and how often do you want to have to recycle chicken, beef and the occasional fish as a non-veggie entree anyway?

Well, I have discovered pork that tastes just like it used to taste, great flavour, moist, no trace of sawdusty consistency. That is because several near-local pork producers raise pork in the same way it was raised in my youth. They let the pigs graze on a spread of land instead of confining them to minute cages that won't let a grown sow turn around. They grow them to full weight naturally and over time, not with hormones in three months. Yes, the meat is more expensive, but considering

the taste and the more humane conditions in which the pig is raised, this is well worth the price. I'll never buy supermarket pork again.

Sources for this great meat? Ashton Glen Farm, for one: ashtonglenfarm.ca; 613-257-4569. Seeds to Sausage in Sharbot Lake, for another: seedtosausage.ca; 613-279-2455. In Ottawa, you can shop for it at The Piggy Market: thepiggymarket.com 613-371-6124 or at The Butchery.thebutchery.ca 613-829-9133. There are other sources: search the Web. I recently bought a 3-lb. centre-cut, bone-in pork loin roast that was cut from a Berkshire pig—succulent, flavourful, covered by a 3/4-inch layer of fat (yes, fat, essential for a good roast: just serve smaller portions). I cooked it in accordance with Mark Bittman's instruction on this website (I did not do the potatoes—but they sound delicious!): markbittman.com/of-pork-and-fat. To die for!

And by the way, this pork had no water or salt added (as most supermarket pork does) and that 3-pound roast comfortably fed seven people. Maybe it was not all that expensive after all.

Just Ask IMAGE About Your Pets

Eleanor Woolard



Q. My mother has a Maltese and two cats, all hugely fat. I'm worried; isn't it unhealthy for a dog or cat to be overweight?

A. Obesity is not just unhealthy for pets; it is fatal. In Canada, it is estimated that 30 to 60 percent of pets are overweight. As with humans, pet obesity is a combination of overeating, lack of exercise and, in some breeds, genetics. The results are crippling. Obese pets develop heart disease, high blood pressure, chronic pain, osteoarthritis, breathing problems, diabetes and/or kidney disease. They are in constant discomfort, so their temperament deteriorates. Fat pets die early, often euthanized because they have become so miserable from the pain.

This is not a pet problem; this is an owner problem.

A recent study found that owners ignore feeding recommendations on labels, leave food out all day, share human food regularly, and dish out treats like there is no tomorrow. At the same time, they do not give their animals the necessary exercise, preferring couch snuggles to a walk or a play session.

Humans assume that what is true for them is true for their pets; one cupcake never killed me, why would it hurt my dog/cat? Aside from potentially toxic ingredients like chocolate, the calories in one iced cupcake are about 20% of a hu-

man's daily needs. **They are 100% of an active Maltese's daily needs and twice as much as an indoor cat needs!**

Your mother is not loving her pets when she shares her favourite foods; she is killing them. They need less food and more exercise, starting right away.

If possible, take your mom with her animals to the vet to see what damage is already done; starting a pet with heart problems on a new routine without vet advice can result in death. Most clinics carry special foods for weight loss without sacrificing nutrition. It's expensive, but not as expensive as treating diabetes in her cats. If money is a problem, there are excellent weight loss diets available at the pet store. Read the instructions, and follow them; it's not rocket science!

Try to ensure that the animals are only fed twice a day, and that leftover food is removed when the pet walks away. No nibbles!

Get them all some toys. These don't need to be expensive; the most popular toys at our house cost around \$1 each, and last forever. Get enough so that you can switch them around every few days, to avoid boredom.

And get that dog out walking, at least twice a day, working up to 30 minutes a walk. Try to get your mother to do this; if her pets are overweight, she probably is, too.



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8 Locks' Flat, on the Rideau canal bike path The lovely cedar patio is open again for the summer on our side of the Rideau Canal, just north of the Somerset footbridge. This is a fine place to stop for a rewarding drink and a sophisticated snack after a vigorous bike ride, or to while away a summer evening when your house is too hot to bear. They are open every day except Monday, though this may vary with the weather, and they feature live music most Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Check their website at 8locksflat.com for the musical line up and other special events.



8 Locks' Flat, on the Rideau canal bike path

Photo Bill Blackstone

Ayoub's, 322 Somerset Street East Besides the delicious cold Lebanese food like cheese bread and eggplant or tabouleh salad, Nouha makes wonderful hot dishes daily. It's a perfect place to stop for a take-out meal when rushed after work or when cooking at home is just not on the menu. We have enjoyed: piquant vegetarian shepherd's pie—lentils, spinach and walnuts with fluffy potato topping; eggplant stuffed with ground beef and pine nuts; fasoulia, tender chicken, kidney beans, carrots and potatoes in a lovely sauce; and rice two different ways, with vegetables and with lentils. Everything was beautifully seasoned. We'll be back to try other tastes such as kibbe in yogurt sauce or cabbage rolls. The food is priced by weight, ranging between \$1.25 and \$1.70 per hundred grams resulting in a reasonably priced meal.

Première Moisson, 120 University Private A branch of the Quebec boulangerie/artisanal takeaway food emporium has opened on the main floor of the new Social Sciences Building at the University of

Ottawa. Drop by for lunch or coffee and a pastry, or for a loaf of bread, a quiche or jar of sauce with posh pasta to take home. This is also a good place to keep in mind for gifts of jam and preserves, chocolate and cakes for special occasions. Hours vary with the academic year; currently it's open from 7:30 to 3:30 on weekdays, and 10:00-3:00 on weekends.

Tutti Frutti, 215 Rideau Street It's a bit pricey for breakfast, with egg dishes, crepes and French toast starting at around \$10.50, but there's something for everyone on this new restaurant's extensive menu. It would be a good place to take a group with disparate tastes in breakfast and lunch, and they have a very festive way with fruit; our Hollywood Beach platter arrived looking like an Ascot-worthy summer hat, and the fresh fruit cocktail was a delicious, dairy-free smoothie that was certainly chock-full of vitamins. Tutti Frutti is open from 6:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Monday to Saturday; 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on Sunday, and there are early bird specials before 8 a.m.



Rosemary Scragg, Sandy Hill artist

Antique art made new

Paula Kelsall

After years of enjoying the visual riches of the world's early artistic heritage—such as medieval tapestries, icons and illuminated manuscripts—through books and galleries, Rosemary Scragg realized she would like to have a few priceless artifacts of her own. “And I knew there was only one way I was going to get some,” says the Sandy Hill artist.

Now the spare room in Rosemary Scragg's Stewart Street apartment is a studio, filled with polymer clay, rubber compound and 50-pound bags of plaster. It's an immaculate room, considering its function. “So far, there are no dollops on the broadloom,” she says. Here Rosemary Scragg creates small clay sculptures, uses them to prepare rubber moulds and then produces plaster casts of her work, suitable for hanging on the wall.

Some of her pieces are framed reproductions of small details from early works of art, the frames elaborately decorated with flowers and whimsical animals. She also makes pleasingly authentic-looking reproductions of early bas reliefs and carvings, and lovely three-dimensional images of angels and mermaids from her own artistic vision.

Rosemary Scragg was the founder of Art in Strathcona Park, an annual fundraising event for the Mental Illness Caregivers' Association. This year's edition of the outdoor art show will be held from 10:00-5:00 on August 10, and will be the next good opportunity to see Rosemary Scragg's work, along with that of many other area artists.

There will also be a show of her work at The Table restaurant on Wellington Street in December, and an open house at Rosemary Scragg's apartment in November. Keep an eye on her website at www.rosemaryscragg.com for details.

The two faces of Art in Strathcona Park

The first face we have seen and appreciated for the past 12 years: the colourful spectacle of over 100 artists exhibiting their work among the trees...with musicians, silent auction and barbecue all adding to the day's enjoyment.

The second face is hidden. It is the face of mental illness. Art in Strathcona Park is a fundraiser for MICA (Mental Illness Caregivers' Association) which provides support and information for those who have a stricken family member. It may not be widely recognised that living with the mentally ill can be as stressful as life with an Alzheimer's patient; not only is their behaviour unpredictable, but their internal clock is often reversed, so they are active at night, and sleep during the day. The strain which this puts on families is clear. MICA has founded support groups and programs for their relief. It also provides information, particularly concerning medications: what to expect and how to monitor their effects.

On behalf of MICA and participating artists I encourage you to attend the show on Saturday August 10 from 10:00-5:00 (rain or shine); support a very worthy cause and have a great time!

Musicians, dancers, entertainers of any kind are welcome to come and pass the hat! — Rosemary Scragg

Sandy Hiller making robocall documentary

Ralph Blaine

On the evening of May 2, 2011 Peter Smoczynski, like most residents of Sandy Hill, sat in front of the television with friends watching the returns for the election of Canada's forty-first Parliament. There was, of course, not the slightest doubt about the re-election of our local MP but as the votes were counted in the country at large Mr. Smoczynski was stunned by the decimation of the once powerful Liberals who lost more than half their seats in Parliament. Something strange had happened and he didn't like the smell of it.

He wasn't the only one to wonder about the election. And it wasn't long before numerous complaints began to roll into the offices of Elections Canada about misleading robocalls. Then a mysterious figure named Pierre Poutine surfaced in news reports about calls in certain ridings directing citizens to incorrect voting stations. For Peter all this added up to

what seemed a serious threat to the democratic traditions of our country.

Some Canadian citizens concerned about what appeared to be a manipulation of the vote wrote letters to their newspapers, others expressed their concern directly to the political parties themselves and filled social media with their commentaries. As for Peter Smoczynski, well he is a veteran, award-winning film maker; so he began planning a documentary film that would bring this story into focus.

As this edition of IMAGE goes to press Peter has raised enough money to purchase much of the equipment he needs to film his documentary which he sees as a grassroots project to shed light on the robocall affair. He is busy lining up people to be interviewed in the film and is still raising money to complete the budget. He is optimistic that by the time the September issue of IMAGE rolls off the presses he will have much of the filming done and a distribution arrangement for the documentary wrapped up as well. Stay tuned for the next installment.

Dancing at dusk in Strathcona Park

Betsy Mann

Nicola Henry grew up in Sandy Hill and remembers going to Dusk Dances performances in Strathcona Park with her family as a child. Little did she imagine that some day she would be co-artistic director of the Ottawa collective that now produces this outdoor showcase for original choreographies. “We have a great program planned for July 11 to 14, this year,” says Nicola enthusiastically. “The Junkyard Symphony will entertain the audience beginning at 7 p.m., and the dances will start at 7:30. Two of the groups that are performing are from Ottawa and three are coming from Toronto.”

“Dusk Dances began producing original choreography in parks in Toronto, as a way to make contemporary dance accessible,” Nicola recounts. “Starting in 1998, Dusk Dances teamed up with the Canada Dance Festival to bring the dances to Ottawa in the summer. My co-artistic director, Julie Anne Ryan, participated as a dancer at that time.” Nicola goes on to explain that the co-production arrangement ended in 2004, but Dusk Dances continued in Toronto under the direction of Sylvie Bouchard, the company's founder. For the last several years, thanks to funding from the Trillium Foundation, it has been able to license productions in other cities.

Since 2011, the Dusk Dances traditions in Strathcona Park have been revived. Families are welcome and admission is “pay what you can.” Audience members are invited to bring their own chairs and blankets, which they will carry around the park to the sites of the various performances, led on by their congenial host. The exuberant Annie Lefebvre will once again play this role. The unique features of the park landscape are often an important part of the choreography. “The dancers will be out practising in the park soon,” says Nicola, “to see how they can adapt to the site.”

This year's two Ottawa choreographies are quite different from each other. Anjali Patil has choreographed and will dance in “Shiva,” accompanied by four other dancers trained in the classical Indian Kathak style of dance. Anjali has been recognized for bringing this style of dance to Ottawa audiences over the last two decades. The other local piece is by Propeller Dance, a company which includes people with and without a disability. Their humorous piece, called “Out of the Box,” is choreographed by ar-



Nicola Henry is co-artistic director of Dusk Dances, five original choreographies which you can see in Strathcona Park from July 11 to 14. Some longtime Sandy Hill residents may remember seeing a younger Nicola's own original choreography, set to the Sugar Plum Fairy music from the Nutcracker Suite and performed in a Christmas production at All Saints Church under the proud eye of parents Robin Dunbar and Paul Henry.

tistic director Renata Soutter and dancer Jessie Huggett. It involves—you may have guessed—dancing with cardboard boxes! An innovation this year is the addition of projections and multimedia effects in one of the choreographies from Toronto.

“We count on volunteers to help us with some of the tasks,” Nicola says, “like helping us set up, ushering people around the park, answering questions at the information table and, of course, passing the hat.” She encourages anyone who could volunteer a few hours on performance nights to contact her at duskdancesottawa@yahoo.ca.

The information line to check for cancellations due to weather conditions is 613-295-6443. In case it rains one evening, there is a make-up performance scheduled for Sunday afternoon, July 14. For more information, check the website duskdances.ca/en/season2013_Ottawa.php. Bring the kids, bring a picnic and enjoy entertainment by the river in our great neighbourhood park.



**I M A G E ' s
images**

Above — IMAGE on holiday in Morocco, May 2013.
Photo Betsy Mann

Left — Fantastic face-painting at the Bettye Hyde June fair.
Photo Bill Blackstone



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St. Paul's Eastern United Church
The Ottawa Hospital (Viral Hepatitis Team)
Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa

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BULLETIN BOARD

Last chance for input re Library's future.
June 15 is the last day for Ottawa Public Library's online ideas campaign for ways to continue to deliver relevant, efficient and equitable services that meet its customers' needs. The ideas campaign website is accessible from the Library's website at bibliottawalibrary.ca or directly at: image-opl-bpo.ca.

House and garden tour
52nd Annual IODE House and Garden Tour, June 21 and 22, 2013
Tour homes and gardens of Rockcliffe Park; Tickets: \$30 Available at retailers across Ottawa. For more info: laurentian.iode.ca or call Jo at 613-842-5304

Victorian Tea
Friends of the Central Experimental Farm will host a lovely classic Victorian Tea served on the lawns of the Arboretum. Bring a patio chair and listen to live music. Enter the best hat contest and don period costume (optional). Formal tea \$8.00, July 14, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Bldg 72, Central Experimental Farm, east off Prince of Wales round-about. 613-230-3276, friendsofthefarm.ca

Seeking host families, July 28 - August 12
Sixty-three Japanese Catholic high school students will join the language program at University of Ottawa this summer. Organizers are looking for families who will welcome the students into their homes and give them a chance to experience the Canadian life style. Period: July 28, 2013 - August 12, 2013
The student will attend the language program 8:00-16:00 on weekdays, sharing time in the evening and weekend with your family. We ask you to provide: a bedroom for the student; three meals (breakfast/lunch/dinner) a day, transportation (on weekdays to/from Ottawa University or bus stop). English / French should be spoken in your home.
We hope you will include the student into your day-to-day life as a temporary member of your family. The student should be encouraged to help with daily household tasks and be included in most of the family activities.
The host family will be paid \$36 per night for a total of 15 nights, \$30 for attending host family orientation at St. Anthony's Banquet Hall (19:30) on July 19, 2013.
If you are interested in participating in this exciting program or would like more information, please e-mail to homestay.ottawa@gmail.com

Tell us your memories of Britannia Park
Established in 1900 by the Ottawa Electric Railway as a "Trolley Park," Britannia Park has been a fixture in the social and cultural life of Ottawa for over a hundred years. We are now collecting its history and need your help. Did you attend dances, concerts, church or company picnics at the park? Did you learn to swim at the beach? Which big bands did you see in the old "Annex"? What events did you attend at "Lakeside Gardens"? What stories do you have to share about riding those old trolley cars to the park? We are looking to collect your stories, photos and artifacts of the park's past. If you would like to share these memories with us we would love to hear from you.
Workers' History Museum/ Musée de l'histoire ouvrière, Box/CP 4461, Station/ Succ E Ottawa, ON K1S 5B4
info@workershistorymuseum.ca



Photo Bill Blackstone

Les Terrasses Philomène, au cœur de notre patrimoine francophone



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

Contrairement à ce que l'on peut penser, les maisons contiguës sont loin d'être un phénomène récent à Ottawa. En effet, on trouve au 363-383, avenue Daly, au cœur de la Côte-de-Sable, une magnifique série de maisons en rangée qui témoigne très bien de cette réalité. Construits en 1874, ces imposants édifices de style victorien en belle pierre grise de la carrière de Gloucester, sont érigés par le propriétaire de carrières et préfet de Gloucester, Honoré Robillard (1835-1914).

Ce riche propriétaire s'avère être le fils du pionnier Antoine Robillard, venu travailler à la construction du canal Rideau (1826-1832) comme tailleur de pierre. Honoré Robillard marque aussi l'histoire franco-ontarienne en devenant, en 1883, le premier député francophone à siéger à Queen's Park, à Toronto, à titre de député de la circonscription de Russell, dans l'Est ontarien. Sa prolifique carrière politique l'amène par la suite à devenir député libéral-conservateur à la Chambre des communes, de 1887 à 1896.

Des locataires prestigieux
Les Terrasses Philomène se distinguent par plusieurs attributs architecturaux,

notamment leurs toits en pente percés de huit grandes lucarnes, leurs murs coupe-feu et leurs belles vérandas ornées de riches fioritures en bois. Leurs énormes cheminées de briques attirent également le regard des curieux.

Au fil du temps, ces maisons hébergent, en plus du député Honoré Robillard, de nombreuses personnalités canadiennes, notamment le célèbre poète lyrique du XIX^e siècle, Archibald Lampman (1861-1899). Ce dernier est d'ailleurs considéré comme l'un des plus grands poètes de langue anglaise du Canada de son époque.

Patrimoine francophone
Il importe de souligner qu'une plaque sur la devanture trahit les origines francophones de ces habitations. En effet, l'inscription, en anglais, « Philomene Terrace » fait oublier que cette série de maisons rappelle plutôt le nom de Philomène Barrette, la première épouse d'Honoré Robillard, qu'il avait épousée en 1860.

Quoi qu'il en soit, il ne fait aucun doute que les Terrasses Philomène contribuent à embellir cette superbe avenue tranquille et boisée de la Côte-de-Sable. Elles s'avèrent également un très bel exemple de maisons contiguës pour loger la bourgeoisie ottavienne de la capitale dans la dernière partie du XIX^e siècle.

Dans les années 1970, la Ville d'Ottawa procède à la restauration des deux maisons situées à l'est afin de redonner à l'ensemble des Terrasses Philomène son aspect d'origine. Aujourd'hui, ces monuments historiques sont protégés pour les générations à venir en vertu de la Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario.



A new flag appeared last month in front of what was for many years the Serbian Embassy at 19 Blackburn. It signalled a change of occupants: this is now the Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Above the porch next door hangs the Serbian flag, a sign that the Serbian ambassador continues to reside here. Both countries used to be part of Yugoslavia, the former owner of the two buildings. The fate of the side yard, which extends down to Osgoode Street, remains undetermined. — *Betsy Mann*

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Illustration Dawna Moore

CALENDAR

June-July-August 2013

Events and shows taking place in or near Sandy Hill

Every Sunday – The Ottawa Art Gallery presents Creative Sundays, hands-on art-making activities for children and adults, free, no registration required, from 1 – 3 p.m., The Ottawa Art Gallery, Arts Court, 2 Daly Ave., 613 233-8699, ext. 228., www.ottawaartgallery.ca.

Every fourth Sunday – The Open Table community meal for students. Come and join us for good food and good company at All Saints Sandy Hill, Laurier Ave. E. at the corner of Chapel St. We eat. We meet. We reflect. And we connect – with each other, with God, and with the community. We try to work out what it means to be faithful in the midst of work, school, family, and relationship. In short, our community seeks to encourage one another as we connect the dots between faith and real life. It's free and fantastic. Beginning 4:30 p.m. (and every fourth Sunday). Visittheopentable.ca.

Now until June 15 – Steel Magnolias, a comedy/drama by Robert Harling, directed by Tom Taylor, Ottawa Little Theatre, 8 p.m., \$25, \$22 (seniors), \$12 (students), 400 King Edward Ave., 613 233-8948, ottawalittletheatre.com.

Now until Aug. 26 – Brew: Beer, Conversation & God, a weekly event designed to encourage participants to read and discuss issues of culture, God, science, art, business and politics and be challenged in different faith-filled ways, each week we will examine five questions or thoughts and the discussion is open, Mondays at 8:30 p.m., Royal Oak, Laurier Ave. E. between King Edward and Cumberland, downstairs, for more information visit: theopentable.ca/brew-beer-conversation-god/.

Now until Sept. 8 – Explode, featuring the work of artists Marcelle Ferron and Rita Letendre, The Ottawa Art Gallery, Arts Court, 2 Daly Ave., 613 233-8699, ottawaartgallery.ca.

June 11 and 25 – The Tree Reading series meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, featuring Amanda Earl and Dawn Kresan (June 11 this night only at the Royal Oak, 161 Laurier Ave. E.) and Kate Cayley and Paul Vermeersch, Club SAW, 67 Nicholas St., 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., treereadingseries.ca.

June 20 – 30 – Ottawa Fringe Festival, various locations throughout Sandy Hill, visit website ottawafringe.com for full details.

June 21 – Sept. 8 – In the Flesh, featuring the work of artists Lance Belanger, Dana Claxton, Brad Isaacs, and Meryl McMaster, The Ottawa Art Gallery, Arts Court, 2 Daly Ave., 613 233-8699, ottawaartgallery.ca.

June 24 – Action Sandy Hill meets the last Monday of the month, 7 p.m., 613 241-4646, Sandy Hill Community Centre.



June 25 – Around Miss Julie, by Harry Standjofski and performed by Hopegrown Productions, part of the Ottawa Fringe Festival, T.A.N. Cafe, 317 Wilbrod St., visit hopegrown.ca for showtimes.

June 27 – Sandy Hill Community Health Centre's Annual General Meeting, 5 p.m., 221 Nelson St.

July 2 – 20 – Noises Off, a farce by Michael Frayn, directed by Richard Elichuk, Ottawa Little Theatre, 8 p.m., \$25, \$22 (seniors), \$12 (students), 400 King Edward Ave., 613 233-8948, ottawalittletheatre.com.

July 3, 8, 15, 22, 29 and Aug. 5, 12 – A Company of Fools Theatre presents The Merry Wives of Windsor, directed by Catriona Leger, Strathcona Park, 7 p.m., pay what you can. If you are unable to attend at Strathcona Park then look for them at other local parks throughout Ottawa, fools.ca.

July 6, Aug. 10, Sept. 21 – Farmers Market in Sandy Hill, various locations, All Saints lawn at Laurier and Chapel on July 6, Strathcona Park on August 10 (at Art in the Park), Sandy Hill Community Centre park on September 21 (at ASH BBQ).

July 11 – 14 – Dusk Dances, Strathcona Park, nightly at 7 p.m.

July 25 – Aug. 25 – Odyssey's Theatre Under the Stars presents George Bernard Shaw's Arms and the Man, Strathcona Park (Laurier Ave. E. and Range Rd.), Tuesdays to Sundays, 8 p.m., new indoor venue on Thursdays and Sundays, 2 p.m. at Academic Hall, 135 Séraphin-Marion, odysseytheatre.ca or 613-232-8407 for more information.

July 26 – World Hepatitis Day BBQ at St. Paul's-Eastern United Church, Ottawa Public Health will provide free testing and vaccination, Cumberland St. at Daly Ave.

Aug. 6 – 24 – The Drawer Boy, a comedy/drama by Michael Healey, directed by Chantale Plante, Ottawa Little Theatre, 8 p.m., \$25, \$22 (seniors), \$12 (students), 400 King Edward Ave., 613 233-8948, ottawalittletheatre.com.

Aug. 7, 14 – Rag and Bone Puppet Theatre presents Zoom at Sea, outdoor theatre at Strathcona Park (Laurier Ave. E. and Range Rd.), 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., indoor rain location at All Saints Anglican Church, 315 Chapel St. at Laurier Ave. E., \$5 for children, \$10 for adults, more information at odysseytheatre.ca.

Aug. 10 – Art in the Park, Strathcona Park. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., free admission, enjoy over 130 exhibitors, as well as a silent auction, performers, refreshments, and food, rain or shine.



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Sept. 10 – 28 – Skin Flick, a comedy by Norm Foster, directed by Venetia Lawless, Ottawa Little Theatre, 8 p.m., matinee Sept. 22, \$25, \$22 (seniors), \$12 (students), 400 King Edward Ave., 613 233-8948, ottawalittletheatre.com.

(613) 234-0321.

Sept. 21 – Action Sandy Hill BBQ, Sandy Hill Community Centre park, more details to come at ash-accs.ca.

Aug. 12 – 16 – Vacation Bible School at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, 210 Wilbrod St., more information at stpaulottawa.org or

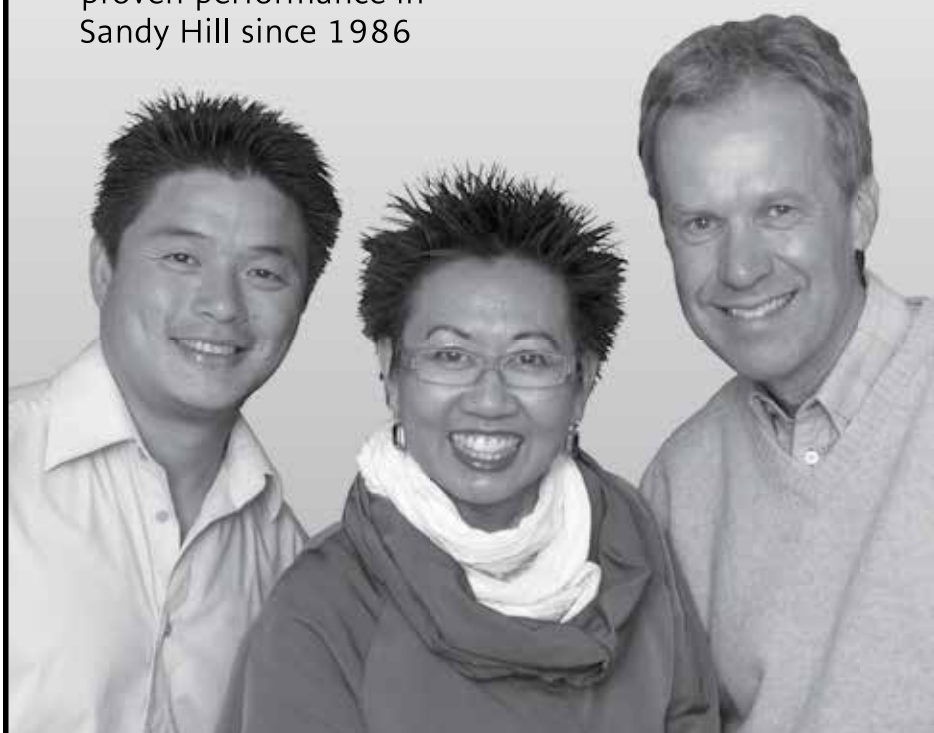
Sept. 30 – Action Sandy Hill meets the last Monday of the month, 7 p.m., 613 241-4646, Sandy Hill Community Centre.

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Window on the Rideau

Lament for a park

Robin Harlick

Probably walk through Robinson Park or Dutchy's Hole as it is also called, several times a week with my dog. I've come to love its snow-carpeted expanse in winter, confused ducks floating on puddles in spring, mothers playing with their tots in summer and dogs cavorting through the fallen leaves in autumn. I especially enjoy the trees, the large expansive trees along the bike path, that seemed to open their branches as if inviting us to wander under their greenery.

So in March it was with a sinking feeling that I read the new sign at the entrance to the park. "Emerald Ash Borer Tree Removal Operation. Proceed with Caution."

I knew that many of the trees in the park were ash trees. I'd learned this a few summers ago from a woman picking mushrooms that were sprouting under many of the trees. She told me that the unusual dark brown mushroom with pores instead of gills only grew under ash trees. Grinning, she added that they were delicious. But without a handy mushroom guide, I decided not to try them and later regretted it. After verifying that they were indeed edible, I never saw another mushroom growing under these trees again.

I later learned that ash trees had once been the park tree of choice. A good fifty years or more ago, the city started planting them in its parks, primarily because they were fast growing, attractive and offered good shade in the summer. It is the shade for which I am grateful, particularly on hot steamy days when, intent on remaining out of the baking sun, I leapfrog from tree to tree on my way through Robinson Park. Ash trees apparently make up 25% of the forest cover in Ottawa.

A few years ago, after reading the alarming headline that declared the emerald ash borer (EAB) had been found in Ottawa in the St. Laurent area, I knew it was a matter of time before it reached my favourite trees. Not native to North America, the voracious, wood boring Asian beetle was first identified in 2002 in Michigan. Since then it has killed tens of millions of ash trees in Ontario and the United States.

For the past couple of summers I noticed that the foliage of the Robinson Park trees, especially the beautiful ones along the bike path, was becoming skimpier and



Halcyon days: Mary Jane and Giulio Maffini walk their daschunds in the ash shady ash grove

skimpier with an increasing number of dead branches radiating out from the tops. I've since learned that the die-off usually begins at the top and that a tree can lose half its branches in a single season. The larvae of the EAB interrupt the circulation of water and nutrients by feeding directly under the bark. When the bark is removed from a dead tree, their tunnels are plainly visible. Surprisingly, it only takes a few larvae to kill a tree.

This past winter when I saw the large red X's marked on many of the tree trunks, I knew the end had come. In late March, the city removed over forty trees, many along the edge of the football field. Of the thirteen magnificent ash trees along the bike path, seven were removed. I suspect and hope the remaining six have been injected with TreeAzin a biological insecticide that kills the larvae. But if so, I wonder about its effectiveness for on a recent walk, I spied a number of dead branches on several of these trees.

To replace the lost trees, the city has planted new ones of several varieties other than ash. They've learned from this EAB experience that it is best not to plant only one variety. But it will be many years before these saplings reach the stature and beauty of the ash. In the meantime we get to experience a different kind of park, more wide-open and less shady and not quite as inviting.

It is interesting to note that EAB has had an impact on human health. A recent study discovered a higher incidence of cardiovascular and lower-respiratory tract related deaths in areas that had lost many trees to the nasty beetle. The authors concluded that the natural environment provides major health benefits. In other words we need trees, big ones, to help us maintain a sense of harmony and to keep us healthy.

As R.J. Harlick, Robin writes the Meg Harris mystery series available in libraries, online and local bookstores.

Mes suggestions de lecture pour la saison estivale

Marie-Claude Jean

Mi-juin, et l'été tarde encore à s'implanter, mais il sera bientôt au rendez-vous et fera naître chez la plupart d'entre nous un besoin impératif de profiter du soleil, de voyager, de relaxer, de recevoir des amis et aussi de se retrouver en vacances avec de bons livres. Voici mes suggestions pour la saison qui s'amorce.

La lettre qui allait changer le destin d'Harold Fry arriva le mardi, Rachel Joyce. XO Éditeur, 2012, 364 pages.

Une traduction de l'anglais, *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, c'est le premier roman de cette auteure. Il s'agit du voyage inattendu qu'entreprend ce retraité après qu'il a reçu une lettre d'une ancienne amie lui annonçant qu'elle va bientôt mourir. Convaincu que s'il lui annonce sa venue elle l'attendra, il la prévient qu'il s'en vient la voir, ce qui l'amènera à parcourir une distance de près de 1000 kilomètres à pied en 87 jours, lui qui n'était en aucune façon préparé à une telle aventure. Ce périple devient pour Harold un voyage intérieur qui le porte à réfléchir à des thèmes universels : l'amour, la maladie, la mort, la perte d'un être cher, l'espoir, la rédemption et aussi le goût de se surpasser, le besoin de se donner un sens, la richesse des relations humaines dans ce qu'elles ont de plus simple et de plus vrai. Pour le lecteur, c'est une invitation à l'évasion, à sortir de ses repères habituels et à l'introspection.

Le jardin de ton enfance, Francine Noël. Leméac, 2012, 138 pages.

Présenté sous la forme de lettres qu'une grand-mère « moderne » rédige à l'intention de son petit-fils, Émile, ce livre tissé de faits anodins, mais pleins de vie, révèle la complicité existant entre ces deux êtres. S'y trouvent aussi des réflexions originales recélant plus de profondeur qu'il n'y paraît à première vue ainsi que des références à des événements mondiaux qui campent le récit dans un lieu et un temps bien précis, points de référence importants pour l'avenir de l'enfant qui commence sa vie dans le monde. Rédigé dans une langue riche, remplie d'intelligence et de finesse, ce livre constitue une lecture aisée qui nous entraîne dans le monde de l'enfance et des petits bonheurs simples.

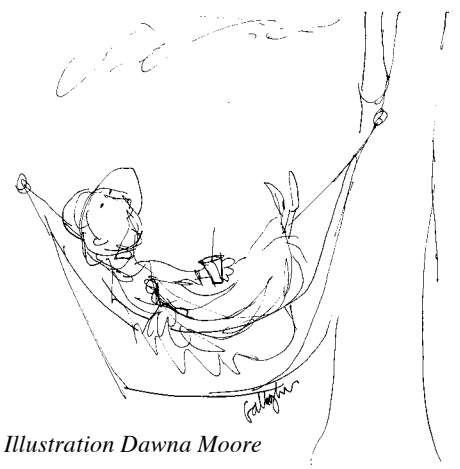


Illustration Dawna Moore

Mân, Kim Thuy. Libre Expression, 2012, 145 pages.

Après le grand succès qu'a connu *Ru*, l'auteure nous livre un autre court roman qui, cette fois, décrit la trajectoire d'une immigrante venue s'établir au Québec, tout en nous faisant connaître davantage la culture vietnamienne, particulièrement à travers ses expressions langagières et ses particularités culinaires. C'est un roman, structuré en courts chapitres, qu'on apprécie pour le dépaysement qu'il offre ainsi que pour la sobriété et la ligne pure de l'écriture même s'il ne suit pas la trame d'un récit dramatique comme tel.

Les deux messieurs de Bruxelles, Éric-Emmanuel Schmidt. Albin-Michel, 2012, 280 pages.

Cinq belles nouvelles dont la première donne son nom au livre. C'est bien écrit, prenant et plein de sensibilité. Ces histoires explorent le mystère des sentiments inavoués ainsi que l'attachement étrange qui se développe entre des personnages qui, d'emblée, ne semblent pas liés et dont la relation va au-delà de ce qui est anticipé. Pour cette raison, on est séduit par le caractère mystérieux qui se dégage de cette lecture. Un autre volet intéressant du livre tient au « journal d'écriture » qui suit les nouvelles et dans lequel l'auteur présente des pensées, réflexions et anecdotes qui sont à l'origine des histoires qu'il a créées.

En vieillissant les hommes pleurent, Jean-Luc Seigle. Flammarion, 2012, 246 pages.

Le drame relaté dans ce livre se déroule sur une seule journée du début des années 60 dans un petit village voisin de Clermont-Ferrand. Avec pudeur et grâce, l'auteur y décrit l'atmosphère de silence qui imprègne la vie de cette famille d'origine modeste dont chacun des membres vit pourtant un « drame » intérieur d'une grande profondeur. Les thèmes qui sont explorés dans ce livre portent principalement sur la paternité et la confrontation du désespoir et, en toile de fond, sur l'arrivée de la « modernité » avec tout ce qu'elle entraîne. C'est un livre magnifique et bouleversant, riche d'émotion et de sensibilité.

Bonne lecture !

P.S. Tous ces livres sont disponibles à la Bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa.

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