

Colour and fragrance trumps pavement and grass patches thanks to volunteers

Perennial flowers and grasses sprout along Sandy Hill curbs

Photo Jan Meldrum



On Rideau Street, volunteer gardeners Diane Stephenson and Ursula William show off their prized bargain dahlia. Since the library has no budget for gardens they have become expert bargain hunters. They hope to plant some tulips for the spring.

Trinity's towers are on the block!

Larry Newman



Where are the cranes and other construction equipment working behind the wooden fence on Rideau and Chapel? Two 26 storey towers were proposed by the Trinity Group for this site over two years ago. The City granted a zoning change and there is still no movement.

Maybe this is why—a commercial realty firm just listed the following:

[Unnamed realty firm] is pleased to offer for sale an approved high-rise development opportunity located at 151-153 Chapel Street, Ottawa (the "Property" or "Site" or "Rideau + Chapel"). Rideau + Chapel is situated on a substantial 1.86 acre land parcel at the intersection of Rideau and Chapel Streets in Downtown Ottawa. The Property enjoys a marquis location, optimally suited for residential condo, purpose-built multi-family and student residence development within steps of Ottawa's By-Ward Market, Rideau Centre Mall and the University of Ottawa. Additionally, this location stands to benefit from strong retail interest and a shift towards a street front format along the Rideau street corridor which is well underway. The Vendor has been able to identify substantial retailer interest for over 50% of the GFA (retail) from investment grade covenants including a 33,000 sq. ft. national grocer.

Stay tuned. Changes are afoot.



Photo Kathleen Kelly

On Somerset St. E., Bryan Dewalt, Tom Laverty and Éric Audet help with the community "power plant" on September 24.



Photo Paula Kelsall

On Stewart St., Councillor Mathieu Fleury inaugurates a set of new "rain gardens."



Photo Frank Heilingerbrunner

New Adawe crossing rocks

John Verbaas

By now many residents will have had the pleasure and convenience of crossing the Rideau River on the new Adawe pedestrian/bike bridge at Strathcona Park. But do you know how many people like you have been making the crossing? The bridge was installed with electronic counters which can distinguish between a pedestrian and a cyclist. IMAGE inquired of City staff and obtained the data of daily usage of this crossing up to Sept 15.

Over the course of the summer, the bridge was averaging between 1800 to 2100 cyclists per weekday and just slightly less at 1600 to 1900 pedestrians per day. In total the bridge was typically serving 3400 to 3800 people per day (with the exception of the occasional particularly rainy day).

At the time of writing, the September data indicating the impact of the start of the school year was limited but indications were that the volumes quoted above were being augmented by an additional 15% during the first two weeks of September. The peak usage day thus far was Monday Sept 12 when 4291 individuals crossed the bridge either by walking or cycling.

Overall, the cost to design and construct the bridge was approximately \$9 million. Just for comparison purposes I took note of another transportation-related capital investment recently made by the City. This was to construct an OC Transpo park and ride lot in South Nepean Woods (Barrhaven). The cost of that project was approximately \$6 million for a capacity of 680 cars. So, as a crude comparison, the Adawe project benefits 4000 people per day with an investment of \$9 million versus a park and ride lot which benefits 680 people per day at a \$6 million cost. Looks like the Adawe crossing was a great investment.

IMAGE

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direction de Diane Wood

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In 2016, IMAGE is published in **February, April, June, October and December**. 7,500 copies are printed and distributed free of charge to all residents of Sandy Hill. Free issues can also be picked up at the community centre, library and various commercial locations.

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

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

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November 14, 2016
(target delivery December 2)

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En 2016, IMAGE sera publié en **février, avril, juin, octobre et décembre**. Son tirage est de 7 500 exemplaires. Il est distribué gratuitement partout dans la Côte-de-Sable. On peut également l'obtenir au centre communautaire, à la bibliothèque et dans plusieurs commerces du quartier.

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

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

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Date de tombée

Publicité, articles, photos et autres soumissions

le 14 novembre 2016
(livraison prévue le 2 décembre)

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

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From Ken Clavette's Album of Bygone Sandy Hill



Looking east over the Laurier Avenue Bridge just at the turn off onto the FDC (Federal District Commission, predecessor to NCC) Driveway. Heading home to Sandy Hill. This photo was taken in 1942 but there is something missing—can you see what it is? (Where is the lineup of cars?) CA022677

Thank you, Denyse!

For over 20 years, Mme Denyse Mulvihill has made her front porch in the north end of Sandy Hill available to IMAGE as the drop-off location at the end of the production cycle. It is she who has signed for the bundles—7500 copies—and kept them dry until we could get them out to readers' doorsteps. With this issue, we have a new delivery service with a depot so we no longer require a local drop off point.

You will also know Denyse as the author of our popular column *Le français correct*, which has opened our eyes and ears to so many personal examples of insidious *anglicismes*, sloppy phrasing and poor grammar. It will now be an occasional, not regular, feature of the paper.

So it is time to extend a big thank you to Denyse for being there with a swept porch and a big smile through more than 100 delivery weekends. We thank this loyal, talented and long-term member of the community (also a venerable alumna of the university), for her devotion to the cause of *le français correct*. Let us honour her by aspiring at all times to use it. — Jane McNamara and Jane Waterston



Denyse Mulvihill

Correction — The new PROSize Barber Shop is at the corner of Henderson and Osgoode Sts. We apologize for getting it wrong in our June issue.

IMAGE Abroad, May 2016



Reading the free press on the Great Wall.

Streetscape blight

Thank you for the Monster on 386 Chapel article [June-July, 2016] which provides one more example of the City's broken infill policy.

One clarification, the developer is not concerned with the heritage value of the house, as was reported in the article. The City now requires that the front of the house reflect the streetscape. But instead of restoring what was a beautiful heritage home, he kept the front of the house, tore down the rest and is just tacking a huge metal box on top and behind it.

The front of the house is in need of restoration, but he is not doing that. Instead he is blocking off access to the second storey porch, so he does not have to fix it. In fact he told us that the porch has rotten wood, so he knows the lack of attention to the porch means it will be removed as a safety hazard in a couple of years.

Look at the photo of the porch that accompanied the article. It is a beautifully detailed example of Victorian architecture. It is textured and layered. It is worth restoring.

What the City has allowed to replace a heritage home is an instant slum. A deteriorating existing structure with a huge metal-sided ugly box tacked on the back and top. Another blight on the Sandy Hill streetscape.

Diane Beckett
Chapel Street

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*Sandy Hill's
place
in the Market*

*Côte-de-Sable
se retrouve
au Marché*



Photo Harlequin Studios

The funeral for MP Mauril Bélanger took place at Notre Dame Cathedral on August 27.

Remembering Mauril Bélanger

Christine Crawford

We, the citizens who embrace social kindness and fairness above all, we were well represented by Mauril Bélanger. My first meeting came soon after he was elected to be the MP for Ottawa-Vanier, my last meeting was the morning after his last election to continue in that job. A glorious morning, just last year, when we gathered to put the campaign office away. The signs were down and volunteers were organizing them for storage; no one could have thought that storage would be permanent. I remember a beautiful, vibrant and handsome Mauril in his red suede celebratory jacket meeting and greeting his campaign workers the day after the election. That is what my heart will keep close.

The first meeting, however, was a bit desperate on my part. You see, as a younger woman I believed that providing housing for people who were disabled, or old, or poor, or people who wanted diversity in their lives was celebrated by others. It took a provincial election in 1995 to burst the bubble of trust. St. Georges co-op in Sandy Hill was a new community in 1995 and already wanted to expand so others who wanted what that lifestyle offered could be part of the St. Georges family. We had secured the land, a kind relationship with Ottawa University allowed us to lease the next block of land and the provincial government had approved the process. The day after the Conservatives were elected in Ontario and Mike Harris

was Premier, the St. Georges expansion was cancelled. That is when I met my friend and MP Mauril.

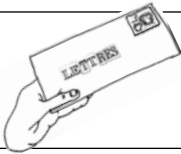
In that meeting, I secured a level of trust and compassion with this brilliant and kind servant of truth that lasted 20 years. I poured out my heart about the cancellation of our project and he knew what this loss meant to me and to Ontario.

Testimony to the goodness of Mauril Bélanger goes on and on. Early on he supported a sewing group's work with women living in poverty in Ottawa. As volunteers tried for two years to keep their cherished St. Brigid's Church open, he was there. That St. Brigid's did close was sad but this good man supported us as we fought!

Now, as our Sandy Hill co-op communities face an uncertain future, I wonder who will lead the charge? Mauril was the representative for co-op communities in our country! He had become involved in the Sandy Hill co-op's discussion with Ottawa U about their future. To explain: both Sandy Hill co-op and St. Georges co-op have long-term leases with the University of Ottawa. These leases will end—in 2.5 years for Sandy Hill and 10 years for St. Georges. Mauril was our best support to speak to this. We must continue the discussion. It is important to all the men, women and children who live in co-op housing in Sandy Hill. It is important to Mauril.

A good person, Mauril Bélanger has died. We are saddened to tears at his passing. Rest in peace, my friend.

Our readers
write ...



Courrier
des lecteurs

Needed – a neighbourhood plan

When I read that ASH will have some input in pre-consultations with developers, I had mixed feelings. Sounds like a great idea in a neighbourhood that constantly sees its heritage dwindling, its green spaces disappearing and its social structure changing because of investors and developers cramming more and more people (students) into less and less space. But right away, I catch myself thinking that this pre-consultation could simply become an OMB on the local level: the semblance of community input that serves to clear the conscience of those who make the decisions and legitimizes changes of the neighbourhood. "Yes the community was consulted" (but unfortunately, their ideas were not followed).

What we need is a neighbourhood plan. Not a consultation for each individual project. For each individual project, the impact is marginal: the two trees missing, the one more family home gone, the four new student apartments built; but once we have a few of these, future developments of the same kind are very difficult to deny ("the others did the same..."). Let us create a vision for this neighbourhood. A vision driven by the people who are committed to it. Not the developers, but the residents. Maybe there should be a prescribed ratio of people living here to available green space. Maybe there should be mandatory replanting and after-care for large trees. Maybe there should be an envisioned ratio of diversity (families, students,...). Maybe there should be mandatory net-positive-energy house-standards. Maybe there should be a commitment to car sharing....

My vision is that of a sustainable, walkable neighbourhood. I think that SH has all the prerequisites that it takes. What it needs is the political will. Only the City, together with SH residents can have that. Developers don't. What I am saying is: consultations on the individual project level will not work. It is not enough. We need an overall plan. It has to be much bigger than anything I have seen so far.

Frithjof Lutscher
Marlborough Avenue

Keeping up with the times



358 Rideau Street



505 Rideau Street

Peter Rinfret
Besserer Avenue

Dear Constituents of Ottawa-Vanier,

I would first and foremost like to offer my sincere condolences for the passing of our dear friend and my fellow M.P., the Honourable Mauril Bélanger. Like so many of you, I was witness to and beneficiary of his generosity, knowledge and kindness.

Until such time as a new M.P. is elected in a forthcoming by-election (at a date to be determined), as Chief Government Whip, I will ensure that the Ottawa-Vanier riding office continues to serve its constituents.

If I can be of assistance, please call me at 613-947-7961.

The Hon. Andrew Leslie, M.P. Orléans, Chief Government Whip
168 Charlotte St., Suite 504, Ottawa



Chers commettants, Chères commettantes d'Ottawa-Vanier,

J'aimerais d'abord et avant tout vous offrir mes sincères condoléances : L'honorable Mauril Bélanger était un très cher ami et collègue. Comme plusieurs d'entre vous, j'ai été témoin et bénéficiaire de sa générosité, de son savoir et de son altruisme.

Jusqu'à ce que les élections partielles prochaines déterminent un ou une nouvelle élue (date à être déterminée), en tant que whip en chef du gouvernement, je vais m'assurer que le bureau de circonscription d'Ottawa-Vanier continue à desservir ses commettantes et commettants.

N'hésitez pas à m'appeler au 613-947-7961.

L'hon. Andrew Leslie, député d'Orléans, Whip en chef du gouvernement
168, rue Charlotte, pièce 504, Ottawa

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What people said when asked for comments on a Supervised Injection Site in Sandy Hill

Larry Newman

In our last issue I wrote an article introducing the concept of a Supervised Injection Site (SIS) and reported on the broad outlines of a proposal to establish an SIS at the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre. Rob Boyd, Director of the OASIS Program at the Centre, had hoped to have a proposal finished and presented to the mayor and police chief by this time. That hasn't happened yet but it's still on the agenda. In the meantime, an advance copy of the results of four public consultations targeting the local neighbourhood and 16 community consultations with various stakeholders (community associations, BIAs, client groups) was provided to me as part of the Health Centre's commitment to make the results public.

Consultation is a word heard often in Sandy Hill, usually associated with applications by developers to construct or modify buildings. We are often not pleased by the buildings and are usually not informed about the results of the consultation. This consultation is different. Rob has revealed the details and this article is a summary of the feedback.

In order to better understand and respond to views of the neighbours and the business community, Rob held SIS consultation meetings on four Monday nights in April this year. Also, invitations offering private consultation meetings were sent to (and accepted by) Action Sandy Hill, Lowertown Community Association and the business improvement areas for ByWard Market.

All but two consultations were conducted in the Centre where participants were given a facilitated tour of the Oasis Program to show how the proposed service would be integrated with existing treatment services. Facilitators were available to ensure safe participation,

answer questions about SIS, and get feedback on the proposed model. Rules dealt with the need to respect different experiences and opinions and to recognize that people from the drug-using community would be present as well as people who have had bad experiences interacting with people who use drugs.

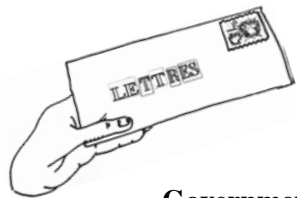
Drug users and residential neighbourhoods don't usually go well together and I expected that there would be considerable pushback from residents. I was pleasantly surprised. I have summarized the participants' reactions as recorded on feedback forms. Some comments and questions were particularly appropriate for Sandy Hill so I included more details in those.

The most common **comments** were:

- Eleven comments regarding overall support: one opposed (I respectfully disagree with SIS), two wish for another location (I wish that this program was not in a residential neighbourhood, I still have some reservations about a SIS at this address), nine in support. "I am a neighbor and I am reassured", great initiative, needed, I am in support, je suis d'accord, makes the most sense, I am fine with the proposal.
- Six comments about neighbourhood concerns: Public safety, attract more people using drugs, property values, vandalism.
- Six comments regarding location: three say it makes sense due to existing service, two live in area and reassured about location at SHCHC, two not reassured of SHCHC location
- Six comments about the consultation process and tour: Good/excellent process/well done tour, one concern re availability of results/response.

The **concerns** that were raised most often, highest numbers first, were four:

- Health Centre atmosphere or environment - Too small, aspects of décor (carpet, chairs, paint colour)
- Mixing of clients - SIS and others
- Hours of operation not sufficient



Government interference in the energy market

The June-July 2016 IMAGE article "Our car runs on the sun" ... omits the economic and moral aspect of government solar panel and electric car subsidies. Let me explain.

First, the economic side of the issue. Having personally installed, maintained and used solar panels at my off-grid cottage for more than 20 years, I am very familiar with the technology. It galls me when people speak glowingly of their solar panel installations and completely miss the deliberate negative consequences when government interferes in the market for energy. Basic economics indicates we have abundant, safe, dense and portable fossil fuel supplies to last us centuries, long before which we will certainly have found even better energy

sources, with nuclear fusion a most likely candidate I think (and hope).

To build solar panels requires intensive mining for rare earth minerals, often done in third world countries that are less wealthy and so do not take such great care in the handling of toxic by-products and with site restoration. To build electric cars and their huge batteries again requires large amounts of mining for minerals. Then there is the fact that every panel connected to the grid decreases grid reliability and efficiency since, in contrast to existing sources, solar panels spit out power in an unpredictable fashion. Every kilowatt of solar panel connected, the grid requires 100% backup by a reliable energy source for the majority of the time when the sun doesn't shine, thus making the whole system more expensive for everyone.

Now to the moral problem. If solar panels and electric cars were in reality such wonderful products, people would flock to buy them and create a large and viable market for them. Exactly the opposite has happened. Unless government uses money forcibly taken from taxpayers to

- Privacy concerns: open, window not covered, or general "lack of privacy"

The **questions** raised most often, highest numbers first, were:

- Aspects of the application process, timelines and next steps
- The benefits of SIS
- The Health Centre's procedures and rules (behaviours, time allowed or required, overdose response, other rules)
- The consultation (process and tour)
- Police (their opinions, and how they will operate)
- Evaluation (how and what the Centre will evaluate)
- Funding/costs
- Neighbourhood related (various from how can support, what are concerns, to safety etc. - Specific concerns- nine about dealing; eight about drawing drug use to the area; seven about crime; five about safety; three about property value; two about needles)

Sixteen questions about what the SIS clients will do after they inject, how long before they can leave, where will they go.

The report goes into substantial detail about the recommendations and responses that address the concerns and comments of the community. Generally, they address the Health Centre's facilities and space, proposed hours of service that will change from normal business hours to 84 hours/week, mixing of clients, high-risk injecting, and neighbourhood concerns.

There were other analyses, comparing the views of neighbours and businesses vs. clients of the Health Centre. Rob has done a very thorough job of identifying stakeholders and understanding the views of each. There is much more information in the report; this article is not a complete summary of it. To see more detailed information, go to the Centre's website, www.shchc.ca, where the full report will soon be available.

For more information on consultations about SIS in our city, see the Ottawa Public Health Office website: tinyurl.com/PublicHealthConsultation.

heavily subsidize panels and cars, almost no one buys them. The writer of the article is being paid about ten times the price at which energy can be produced, absent government interference. In truth, he is being paid on the backs of the people who cannot afford to put \$20,000 panels on their roof and buy \$40,000 cars. This is pure "weathfare" - the more wealthy being subsidized on the backs of the less wealthy and, as with all such transfer schemes, is immoral. Ontario's Auditor General has highlighted how Ontarians have paid tens of billions more for power in recent years than they would have if not for government interference. This has caused great harm to all Ontarians and is blatantly anti-freedom.

While it is tempting to read the simple story of one family and think it is a nice, encouraging story of how to make Ontario better, it is actually a cautionary tale about economic destruction, rights violations, inadvertent consequences and immoral outcomes that occur every time government force interferes in the free decisions of citizens.

David McGruer
Nelson Street

Railway history at Hurdman's Bridge

The item on Robinson Village and Hurdman's Bridge in Ken Clavette's Album for April-May recounted the tale of the two names.

In addition to the bridge at the end of Hurdman Road, three railway bridges in the same vicinity at one time carried the trains of four different railways coming in from the east. These lines then skirted the former industrial fringe of Sandy Hill on their way towards town. One of these passed Overbrook before crossing the river, then ran behind the backyards

on Robinson Avenue next to the present Robinson Field and continued as far as a coal yard on Mann Avenue. Other tracks crossing the river further south ran roughly on the alignment of the Nicholas Street off-ramp towards the elbow of the Rideau Canal and from there along the canal to Union Station.

Across the river, on the far side of the present-day Queensway, tracks leading to the other two bridges intersected with still more lines that ran along the east side of the Rideau. The resulting maze of crossings and switches were controlled from a signalman's tower designated as "Hurdman" in employees' timetables. This two-

storey structure, manned 24 hours a day, was situated near the present Hurdman pumping station, which is sandwiched between the VIA Rail tracks and the newly elevated LRT right-of-way. Hurdman was never a stop for passenger trains, but the CP signalman sometimes had to deliver dispatchers' orders to enginemen and conductors on the fly. Today, the Hurdman Transitway station, in the process of conversion to a rail-bus junction, commemorates the area's railway past as well as the village of Hurdman's Bridge.

Doug Stoltz
Blackburn Ave

St. Joe's Supper Table

151 Laurier Avenue East, at the corner of Cumberland • www.stjsupportable.ca

St. Joe's Supper Table has been operating in Sandy Hill since 1978. It had a humble beginning with concerned women making sandwiches to give out at the church door. Gradually, hot nutritious meals were served. Most recently we opened up a community garden to provide fresh produce for our meals and food bank, as well as a community kitchen where we provide a safe place for people to cook in groups, learn skills and have fun while cooking. Our mission is simple: to feed those who are hungry.

Meal Program

St. Joe's Supper Table provides a meal Monday through Friday from 5:00 pm – 6:15 pm. The people we serve are the working poor, people on disability, some are homeless, and others are students. Our evening meal is accessed by people in the downtown core as well as Kanata, Orleans and even Gatineau, while our Food Bank serves Sandy Hill residents only.

We strive to serve nutritious meals, seasonal produce and support local farmers who provide healthy, fresh ingredients. Recently we added fish to the menu and beets are often a fall favourite. In February we removed salt from our tables and offered other food seasonings to help reduce guests' salt intake. The Meal Program provides opportunities for people to volunteer by cooking in teams or serving during the meal time.

Our weekly food budget is \$300 with which we somehow manage to create and serve up to 750 meals a week. We rely on the parish for our main support, and on donations from the Ottawa Food Bank, Ottawa Community Foundation, neighbours, OECTA, Just Foods, various religious orders, Ottawa Food Sharing, La Soyarie, Bridgehead Coffee, Kardish Foods, Hidden Harvest, Rideau Bakery and two local farm families (Simon and Rachel, and Reid and his family). Our volunteers are also generous and often donate sliced bread, sandwich spreads, eggs and ham for our bag lunches. (Some people prefer to take a bag lunch to eat at work the next day, or to eat later on in the evening rather than sit down and eat in the dining room.)

Meal Program Needs: Lunch bags, beets, sandwich meats, sliced cheese, black beans (for a black bean sandwich mix)

Food Bank

We offer a food bank that serves the community of Sandy Hill in two locations, 151 Laurier Ave. East and at 300 Wiggins Private (since the fall of 2015).

Food Bank Needs: Canned vegetables, cream soups, canned or real fruit (like apples), canned tomatoes, peanut butter, jam, sugar, spices and herbs, tea, coffee, juice, snack bags. Fresh vegetables and fruit are always welcome.



Baking Club

Our Baking Club is a group of people with special needs. Each Tuesday, they bake with Teresa (a volunteer) and Dina, their coordinator. They always need dried fruit to make the healthy muffins we call NABAWT muffins (Not As Bad As We Thought). Currently, we are making them with the hospital oatmeal in our freezer (not a favourite with anybody)—we have tried to give it away. But Teresa took on the challenge and used it in several recipes, finally receiving her neighbour's approval. The result? Muffins that are really good and good for you! Or as we call them: NABAWTs.

Community Kitchen

We offer opportunities for individuals to volunteer by cooking, serving, cleaning or organizing, and to groups who want a team experience. Often people volunteer because they simply want to contribute. Many of our guests volunteer and together we create a community of food sharing.

Cooking with Mike! Learn new skills, share recipes and techniques, and cook on a budget. \$5 for 3 meals. Every Saturday from 1:00pm–4:00 pm. Sign up by email at stjsupportable@gmail.com or phone 613-233-4095 ext 240.

Special Cooking Nights We also have one-time workshops on topics like pierogi or sauerkraut making, led by volunteers, donation requested. Check our website's Events page.



Share in the sharing...

Your help is greatly appreciated!!!! Please think of us as you pass by Laurier and Cumberland, drop off some groceries or make a donation at our website — www.stjsupportable.ca ! Food Donations can be dropped off at the office: 151 Laurier E., 8:00 am – 7:30 pm during the week, or on Saturdays from 11:00 am – 4:30 pm.

Helping — by the Numbers

Our operating budget is \$175,000.00 a year generated from private funders, loyal friends, the church and the Ottawa Community Foundation.

In August 2016, St. Joe's Supper Table served 2,675 meals, and 146 people shopped at our Food Bank. From August to September we saw a 12% increase in visits to our Food Bank.

This year, we are exploring a social enterprise, and we have a small team looking into it. We are exploring growing vegetable plants to sell in the spring, setting up a summer ice cream shop, catering on a small scale, making our own brands of pestos, etc. and having cooking workshops.

Our main Fundraising goals are:

1. \$135,000.00 so we can fund our community kitchen and cooking programs over the next three years
2. \$4,500.00 to build six new garden beds, update our soil and woodchips, purchase seeds, and begin a pilot project to provide a garden mentoring program
3. \$3,600.00 to purchase an indoor growing system to produce vegetables during the winter months for our meals.

Volunteer Needed

We are looking for someone who likes sales and marketing, for a volunteer project. Contact

Mary (the Supper Table manager): stjsupportable@gmail.com



Thank you to all saints, Action Sandy Hill, Sandy Hill Community Health Centre, Ottawa City Housing in Strathcona Heights and our neighbours in Sandy Hill! Your spirit and support inspire and strengthen our work to meet the needs of our community.



Putting the garden to bed....

The container garden you see at the Laurier/Cumberland corner is totally run by donations and the efforts of volunteer gardeners. Once again this fall, our garden is sharing its beauty and produce with neighbours and guests. It is a wonderful mystery how gardens inspire hope in people and there can be a sense of healing, a sense of calm. ...

New sponsor for
Odyssey Theatre at the
other end of the park

Jesse Buck (aka Truffaldino, the servant who had two masters in the Odyssey Theatre production this past summer) offers some mischievous help to one of the company’s newest supporters — the developer of a new apartment building at the south end of Strathcona Park.

Homestead Land Holdings stepped up to sponsor the 2016 season of Theatre Under the Stars, donating \$8,000—the most significant corporate support for the 31-year-old company since the days of cigarette company sponsorships. “It is a relationship we hope to foster and grow,” says interim general manager James Richardson.



A 6–8 minute “first flight” ride in this vintage open-cockpit biplane, photographed at the Rockcliffe air field, costs \$65; a 10–15 minute Parliament Hill tour is \$89.

Biplane overflights another noise concern

John Cockburn

Sandy Hill residents have increasingly been expressing concerns about the noise from tourist overflights offered by Ottawa Biplane Adventures Inc. The tours originate from the Rockcliffe airfield adjacent to the Aviation Museum and their offices are located in the Museum. The plane is a vintage Waco biplane built circa 1943. Frequency of the flights seems to have increased with a change in ownership of the aircraft and increases to altitude restrictions over the Parliamentary precinct, forcing traffic over the residential areas.

According to Transport Canada’s Aviation Enforcement Office the flights are monitored closely and comply with all pertinent regulations governing noise and altitude. With respect to noise the requirement states that the plane must operate per the manufacturer’s specifications rather than stipulating a specific noise limit. This is possibly a concern with respect to a plane almost 75 years old. The altitude requirement is a minimum 1000 feet over populated areas. The plane in question has a transponder and Transport Canada has no recorded violations of the altitude requirements.

Given that legal technical requirements are being met the issue seems to devolve to the realm of “good neighbourly conduct” that Sandy Hillers are well versed in with respect to other noise

issues. Policy remedies like a realistic airplane noise standard or an increase in height requirement in the *Canadian Aviation Regulations* lie in the federal domain. So what to do?

For some there are other priorities. “The aircraft is not on my radar” says Claire MacDonald, a neighbourhood expert in bylaw infractions. She cites ground-level issues like air contamination from demolitions, transient noise and environmental protection as more important for her.

On the other hand, Sandy Hill resident John Irving feels strongly about the issue. As he has written to our former MPP Madeleine Meilleur and IMAGE, “What right does this individual have to disturb the peace and quiet of many thousands of taxpaying residents numerous times every day?” He goes on to say, “Noise pollution is pollution and has well documented negative health affects...”

Biplane Adventures is aware of the concerns as many residents have been in touch with them. They say they vary their flight plans but options are limited. They have also added tours that fly over the river and the Gatineau Hills to appeal to those customers looking for the flying experience rather than an airborne view of Parliament. They can be reached at 613-316-7229.

1000 feet is about the distance between the play structure and the parking lot in Strathcona Park. If you feel the plane is flying lower than that distance note the time and the plane registration (in this case CF-LEF) and you can report it to Transport Canada at services@tc.gc.ca or by phone at 1-800-305-2059.

City Councillor/Conseiller municipal

Mathieu Fleury

Ward/Quartier Rideau-Vanier

Version française disponible en ligne au mathieufleury.ca/acceuil/

As many of you know, we have done a lot to oversee planning and development within Sandy Hill over the past six years with the goal of protecting the character of the neighbourhood.

It started with the planning report relating to converted dwellings, which helped address some of the worst planning loopholes. Since 2013, developers can no longer use the conversion bylaw to over-develop single family homes before converting them into low-rise apartment buildings.

The next planning effort was on Infill I, which created a completely new zoning tool. It created specific regulations in the zoning bylaw that sought to require new buildings to integrate in the surrounding neighbourhood. This means that new developments must fit in with the built character of the street. Notably, it removed parking requirements for buildings up to 12 units, so that parking can no longer be the legal excuse for bad design. The subsequent Infill II work increased rear yard setback requirements and reduced permitted heights for low-density residential buildings. In 2015, the Sandy Hill Heritage Study created a set of guidelines that directed how development and maintenance should occur in the five existing Heritage Conservation districts, a first in the City.

Then the Uptown Rideau Community Development Plan (CIP) recognized Rideau Street as a continuation of the main street. We protected heights but allowed for density transfers on corner sites with key requirements such as additional green space and privately owned public spaces. The Plan also emphasized the consolidation of Uptown Rideau (the section east of King Edward) with good urban design. This reform was badly needed, as the street still has lots of empty lots and remains a disjointed commercial mainstreet. Our most recent report to pass council was the new requirements for Site Plan Control in Sandy Hill. This report allows for additional scrutiny when it comes to development, especially in cases where a street-facing façade is being altered, a dwelling unit is being added, or the resulting building is 275 m² or larger. This means that no construction will happen in Sandy Hill without proper planning oversight. Oversight will include looking at exterior materials, parking, and garbage management.

We are the only community in the city where this measure is taking place. We recognize the impacts that the development has had on our community and we want to make sure proper reviews are conducted by planning experts. Our next exciting project is the R4 review. The majority of Sandy Hill is zoned as R4 and we are reviewing whether or not this structure best suits the community. The review has begun and is looking at maximum numbers of bedrooms and optimal numbers of units per building, among other elements. The process must review heights, density and use to ensure that R4 zones are a desirable place to live. As our community knows well, our goal is to maintain the character of Sandy Hill while guarding its heritage and stabilizing development pressures. Basically, we want Sandy Hill to be a safe, affordable, welcoming and diverse community for all.

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Newsbites

Facelift proposed for Egypt’s
Chancellery

Well, it’s more than a facelift. The property comprises two buildings, the one on the corner of Range Road and Laurier Avenue (454 Laurier Ave. East) and the small building (452 Laurier Ave. East) immediately west of the chancellery. A feasibility study drafted by Robertson Martin Architects proposes that the smaller building be replaced by a new structure attached to the main building but looking almost like a separate building. The new structure would look very much like the main building with similar window placement and roof and brickwork. There would be underground parking with a driveway exiting onto Range Road. Construction would require rezoning and a heritage application. No application has yet been filed with the City and no construction date has been announced. — L. Newman

Préparatifs à l’élection partielle

Sur le plan politique, les résidents d’Ottawa-Vanier sont deux fois orphelins depuis la démission de leur députée libérale Madeleine Meilleur en juin dernier et du décès de leur député fédéral Mauril Bélanger en août. S’il est trop tôt pour l’entrée en lice de candidats pour remplacer M. Bélanger (l’appel aux urnes pourrait attendre jusqu’en février), plusieurs personnes ont déjà signalé leur intérêt à contester l’investiture de leur parti au niveau provincial. Le NPD a déjà choisi son candidat : ce sera Claude Bisson, qui a fait carrière à la Gendarmerie royale. Pour le Parti libéral, on signale notamment la candidature de Nathalie Des Rosiers, doyenne de la Faculté de droit à l’Université d’Ottawa et ancienne directrice de l’association canadienne des libertés civiles. (Au moins deux autres candidats se présentent aussi.) La session d’investiture du Parti libéral aura lieu le 15 octobre. En septembre, André Marin, ancien ombudsman de l’Ontario, a annoncé qu’il briguerait la nomination du Parti progressiste-conservateur. Quant à lui, le Parti vert n’a pas encore annoncé qui le représentera. La date du vote n’a pas encore été proclamée mais il aura vraisemblablement lieu d’ici la fin de l’année. —F. Bregha

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Next steps for a downtown truck tunnel

John Verbaas

Sandy Hill residents wanting to see a dramatic reduction in interprovincial truck traffic at the busy corner of King Edward Avenue and Rideau Street will be interested in the results of the City’s two-year, Downtown Truck Tunnel Feasibility Study, released on August 17. It concludes that a tunnel is feasible—however the route proposed comes as a surprise.

Tunnel route

Although the terms of reference referred to a possible tunnel along the Nicholas and King Edward corridors, the study recommends a route that connects the 417 and the Macdonald-Cartier Interprovincial Bridge via the Vanier Parkway. Heading north, the underground route would pass under the Rideau River, eastern sections of Sandy Hill and Lowertown.

Why this route? Other routes, they say, might be shorter but entail greater construction risks. In particular, the route proposed from the Nicholas exit to the bridge would mean a tricky proximity to the LRT tunnel, width restrictions on any new lanes leading to and from the tunnel, and poorer ground conditions for tunnelling.

Those ground conditions are the main reason a tunnel running under the residential area of Sandy Hill would pose fewer risks. The tunnel would run 8-10 stories (25-35 meters) under the surface, through limestone considered to be good for tunnelling. That means the proposed tunnel would be well below the silty, clay and sandy parts below our homes and parks. A technical appendix to the study surveys in detail the ground conditions in Sandy Hill and explains how the proposed tunnel would take those into account.

Traffic reductions

The study looked at the traffic currently running between highway 417 and Quebec and concluded it would carry 1,700 trucks and 25,000 cars per day. This would remove about 75% of the trucks currently running along Waller/Rideau/ King Edward and about 30% of all the car traffic on Nicholas/Waller and King

Edward. The remaining 25% of trucks are considered to be local—making a delivery in the downtown as part of their journey to or from Quebec and thus unlikely to use the tunnel. Removing this volume of trucks and cars from the downtown would surely have a transformative effect on this area of our city.

The issue of trucks carrying dangerous goods remains a challenge, though. About 100 of the daily interprovincial trucks in Ottawa are carrying flammable materials (gasoline, diesel, propane, etc.). There are very few tunnels worldwide where these types of trucks are allowed, so a strategy for how to deal with them will be an important part of any upcoming environmental assessment.

Specifications

The proposed tunnel would be 3.4 km long and would consist of two separate “tubes” (one per direction) with two lanes of traffic in each—so 6.8 km of tunnel would be dug altogether. The separate “tubes” would have connecting passages every 250 m, to serve as emergency exits.

Ottawa has been waiting for 50 years for this missing highway connection. The study estimates costs for the tunnel at \$1.7–\$2 billion. The expectation is that it could only be built if the province (possibly with federal assistance) funded it. It would finally complete a continuous connection between the expressway systems of Ontario (417) and Quebec (5/50)—a responsibility of the provincial Ministry of Transport, which spends \$2 billion each year on expanding and upgrading provincial highways.

What comes next

City council debated the results of this study on September 14 and voted 21-2 in favour of proceeding to the next step: a detailed environmental assessment (EA) provided costs are shared equally with the provincial and federal governments. The assessment would likely cost \$7 million and take 3-4 years to complete. If it goes ahead, residents will have the opportunity to register their views and input. The City plans to budget its 1/3 contribution in the 2017 budget and to commence the EA as soon as funding is secured.

Demolition crew clears site for a new student residence

Three traditional apartment houses add up to an enormous pile of rubble on Laurier Avenue East

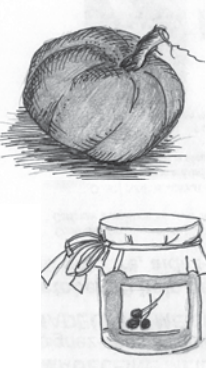


Photo François Breglia



Photo Harlequin Studios

Bob Viner (Viner Assets Inc.) owns all of the broken brick on this site at the corner of Laurier East and Friel. He said that he hopes that excavation will start in “the next few weeks” and the first of 650+/- students will room there during the 2018 fall semester.




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Let's talk real estate

Lynda Cox



Welcome back! Another school year is off and running. Our streets are bustling with student activity—a real “happening place”. New student housing starts are up and starting to fill, others continue to develop.

I often work with Sandy Hill clients who want to downsize or upsize but they want to stay in the “hood.” No homogenous community for them—too boring! They love the issues Sandy Hill presents them with. They want to stay.

So, get involved, make Sandy Hill greater, put down roots, and let's give a cheer to this great neighbourhood

And now on to some real estate news.

We have had a great summer of sales. Fourteen residences were bought and sold. Prices ranged from \$385,000 to \$980,000. The average time to sell was approximately 68 days. This is a vast improvement over last summer when only 9 residences sold ranging from \$320,000 to \$709,000, for an average sale price of approximately \$490,000 and taking approximately 84 days to sell. Two of those homes sold over their list price—yes some bidding wars are happening! That is a sign of a healthy market. Currently there are 29 residences for sale ranging from \$444,500 to \$1,399,500. So things are moving in the residential sector.

The condo market is a different picture.

There is still a glut of units on the market. Last year the summer saw 15 sales ranging from \$157,000 for a studio apartment with parking at 232 Wilbrod right up to \$435,000 at 275 Charlotte for 2 bed + 2 bath + parking. Average time to sell was 118 days. This summer the number was 16 sales ranging from \$265,000 for a 1 bed + 1 bath, no parking at 238 Besserer, right up to \$635,000 for a 2 + 2 + parking at 200 Rideau. Approximate time to sell was 120 days. There are currently 53 condos for sale ranging from \$219,900 for 1 bed + 1 bath, no parking to \$749,000 for 2 bed + 2 bath and 1 parking; both those units are at 242 Rideau St.

If you have to sell your condo now or in the near future you must have patience and then—more patience. Aggressive pricing might help you move things along a bit faster. There is still so much to choose from—a real buyers' market. You could try renting your condo out for a few years until the condo market is back on track.

Overall is this a good time to sell? For the residential sector, absolutely. Often when you sell in the fall you stand out due to dwindling inventory. With the market continuing to be robust we are looking forward to a very successful selling and buying season.

Let's Keep Talking...



Photo Ralph Blaine

Henderson Avenue problem straightened out one year later.

Garbage problems and progress

Ralph Blaine

Problems with garbage storage go back a long way in Sandy Hill. In the minutes of Action Sandy Hill for November 2011 we find a particularly interesting case involving a future president of our community association. But my involvement began with a flagrant violation of City bylaws for garbage storage just a block from my house in front of a lovely row of townhouses from 79–83 Stewart. Readers of IMAGE have all seen the pictures. The upshot was several articles in IMAGE and eventually a presentation at the Town and Gown Committee (where Bob Forbes represents the Sandy Hill community) at the invitation of Coun. Mathieu Fleury.

As I reported previously, I was impressed with the sincerity of Mr. Fleury and his apparent determination to work on this problem. I soon became aware of the longtime commitment of the Action Sandy Hill Bylaw Committee, now led by Sally Southey, in dealing with these bylaw violations. It wasn't long before a list of addresses was assembled and a bylaw officer was assigned to deal with them. Sally, her committee and the bylaw officers are still working on the worst cases. Warnings have been given, fines have been assessed and in, at least one case, a landlord has been brought to court over flagrant violations of the bylaws concerning garbage storage. But this concerted offensive began several months ago. I thought it was time to see what the impact had been.

My presentation to the Town and Gown Committee highlighted 49 addresses where garbage was being stored in the front yard or front veranda. Most of these cases involved clearly visible plastic garbage cans. In other cases, various sorts of bins were being used to store garbage in the front part of the house. All of these are clearly in violation of the bylaws which require garbage to be securely covered and stored in the back yard. My first photos of these addresses dated back to September 2015. So on September 21, 2016 I decided to take an anniversary tour to see what had changed.

There were some disappointments. A few addresses at which I had seen improvements in my regular walks to the market had regressed to their previous bad habits—discouraging. But once I had done the complete tour of the 49

original addresses I found that 25 of them no longer had garbage being stored in the front yard. Twelve of these were on Henderson—some of these owned by the University of Ottawa (as in the photos above). The notorious strip on Osgoode just west of Nelson is much improved although there are still garbage cans at 132A (where a squirrel was feasting inches from a torn open bag of garbage) and 134A (where a rat scurried away as I approached). Also on Osgoode are a couple of those ugly plywood boxes out front which in the past were often festooned with black bags stuffed with garbage tumbling over the side. Now these boxes are bolted shut. I wonder why they are still there? Five addresses on Nelson had also relocated the garbage to the back yard. I think we all know that it will be difficult to completely eradicate this problem. But cleaning up roughly half of the addresses in my original report is at least a promising start.

How do we go about cleaning up the rest? What we have learned so far is that some landlords will respond to a warning. For some it may take a fine. But a significant number just thumb their noses at us and at the law. To tackle these stubborn cases many in the community are beginning to feel that the bylaw officers need to have the power to issue summary fines just like the parking officers do—no more giving these flagrant law breakers two weeks to conform each time a complaint is filed. It is not clear at this time just what it will take to make such a change but the proposal has been put to our councillor. Meanwhile we need to make sure our own noses are clean. As I walk around the neighbourhood I see that this unfortunate practice of storing garbage in the front area of the house seems to be slowly spreading onto a few private residences. Indeed that incident back in 2011 involving a future president of Action Sandy Hill was such a case. He reported in the November 2011 minutes of ASH that he had been warned by the bylaw officers for storing garbage in his front yard. He complimented the officers and reported that “he would like to encourage the City to do more of this type of educational action.” If only everyone felt the same way. The garbage at 79–83 Stewart, where my investigation began over a year ago, is still being stored out front in spite of the fact that the owner has been taken to court and fined for this violation. Time to take off the gloves.

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Sandy Hill is now a “Special Site Plan Control Area”

A new bylaw—limited to a review of the design and elevations, the location and layout of on-site parking, landscaping, grading and drainage, and waste management—applies to all new residential development in Sandy Hill.

For more information on the new rules for Sandy Hill, please visit: ottawa.ca/en/development-application-review-process-0/site-plan-control

and a great article by Chad Rollins at Action Sandy Hill's website: www.ash-acsc.ca/new-requirements-for-site-plan-control-in-sandy-hill/

Photo Harlequin Studios



Leanne Moussa, president of All Saints Development Inc., explains the vision for the building's future to visitors at an open house on September 25.

Development with a difference

Betsy Mann

Curious about what's going on at the former All Saints Anglican Church at the corner of Chapel and Laurier? You're not alone. On Sunday, September 25, about 300 people took advantage of an open house at the new allsaints to see for themselves. Visitors got to chat with friends, listen to music, have fun with their children, all while visiting the spaces under renovation and looking at the architectural drawings that suggest what these spaces could become. The conclusion? As our neighbourhood changes and evolves, this will be a different kind of development. And most importantly, it is a development that aims to make a positive difference.

"We think we can demonstrate that traditional buildings can be transformed and still retain their heritage flavour and their community function," says Leanne Moussa, president of the corporation that was formed to purchase the building when it came on the market two years ago. She is also president of a separate corporation which earlier brought together neighbourhood investors to purchase the Carriage House at the corner of Osgoode and Blackburn. "Over the last four years, we've shown that this model can work," Leanne continues. "Both our tenants, the Child, Adolescent and Family Centre of Ottawa and Bettye Hyde Cooperative Early Learning Centre, are providing important community services and paying their way. When families are choosing where to live, it's a real draw to have quality child care in the neighbourhood."

Building community feeling—what sociologists call "social capital"—is a main motivator for the allsaints project. For the last two years, the allsaints shareholder group (consisting of both neighbours and business investors) has carried on discussions and ongoing

community consultations. The aims the group has identified form the basis of the concept drawings displayed at the open house:

- restoring the church and keeping it as one open space
- honouring the history of the church
- maintaining public access, including to the outdoor space along the Laurier side of the building

As one neighbourhood investor put it, "The challenge is to make the physical space serve the social goals while at the same time keeping the whole thing financially viable." The buildings, both the church and Bate Hall, require a lot of extremely expensive work, some of it urgent. In order to be able to pay for restoring and maintaining the church building, Bate Hall will have to be replaced with a building that will generate income.

The group chose a heritage architect to produce the massing drawings; they show a building whose upper storeys will be set back from the street to allow clear views of the original church. The proposed ground floor will house two small retail spaces and a cafe, with three floors of offices and eight floors of residential space above. Exact meaning of "residential" is still undecided: hotel, condos, rental apartments or some mix. The first step is to present the drawings to the City with requests for a change in zoning and an amendment to the official plan to permit the proposed uses.

Once the requisite approvals come through, the details of the design will be worked out. "We would like to have a competitive process for architectural design," Leanne explains. "We don't want to be another tall box of a building on Laurier. We want to be sure the church remains the centrepiece."

This will obviously not be a quick process; construction won't start for a long while. In the meantime, there is already lots going on in the new allsaints. A look

Photo Harlequin Studios



Dappled light from the heritage stained glass windows shines down on parents and children who came to hear Kathleen Rooney play at the allsaints open house.

at their website (www.allsaintsottawa.ca) shows that you can sign up for zumba, nia, tango and 5 Rhythms movement classes. You can rent space for a private party, a conference, a wedding, a music performance or a business meeting. Some examples of recent events include a sit-down dinner for the Ottawa-Vanier Federal Liberal Riding Association, a youth event for the Canadian Council of Muslim Women, an iftar dinner, a public consultation on democratic reform and a consultation on climate change, organized by the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna. "This is how I see the future of this development," says Leanne, "as a community resource and a centre where people get together to learn and discuss

ideas that will move us forward."

That is the long-term vision for the transformation at allsaints, but the buzz at the September open house was more about what's going on now. Parents whose children had attended Bettye Hyde Cooperative Nursery School marvelled at the look of the transfigured basement, its walls stripped back to the red bricks and grey limestone. They could easily imagine this now atmospheric space housing a good restaurant, one of the possible plans for the near future. Others exclaimed at the possibilities the chapel offers as a wedding venue where once they brought their children for piano lessons. Upstairs in the former sanctuary, the playing of cellist Julian Armour and harpist Caroline Léonardelli—just one of many performances during the day—brought tears to the eyes of those who could remember the years of church services here. (And perhaps it convinced the engaged couple in the audience to book this spot for their wedding!) "From the written feedback that visitors left us and from the conversations we had and that we overheard, people were surprised and pleased with what we have accomplished already," Leanne reports. "They understand that things here have to change and for the most part, they reacted positively to what we have planned for the future. This is an exciting time for development in Sandy Hill and we have a chance to influence it in a direction that will make this continue to be the unique, livable downtown community we love."

If you missed the open house, take the time to drop into the Guild Room Café, open 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily for coffee, tea, light lunch and conversation. Be sure to check out the current art exhibit, which changes monthly.



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Below—Bill and Lorraine Kemp of Almonte-based Fluid Coffee pour samples in the space that once housed Bettye Hyde Nursery School. Their coffee is served in the current Guild Room Café upstairs.

Photo Harlequin Studios



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Prime Ministers’ Row included as an NCC Milestone Project

Suneeta Millington

Prime Ministers’ Row is thrilled to announce its inclusion by the National Capital Commission, in the recently released Plan for Canada’s Capital, as one of the 17 Milestone Projects that will guide the next 50 years of Capital building. This planning framework commits the NCC to “participate in partnership with the City of Ottawa in improving the streetscape of Laurier Avenue East” and to “support the development of an innovative interpretation project (Prime Ministers’ Row) underscoring the residences of former Prime Ministers of Canada on Laurier Avenue East.”

Against this background, the Board of Directors of Prime Ministers’ Row (a group of eminent Canadians from across the country) gathered for its inaugural meeting this past September in order to finalize the strategic vision for the project. The implementation of that vision will be led by the Prime Ministers’ Row Steering Committee, which is comprised of Sandy Hill residents Suneeta Millington (Chair of PMR), Christiane Vaillancourt (journalist and media/strategic communications specialist), Sarah Carpenter (project manager/corporate accountability expert), and Ryan Lotan (Director, Operations practice at PricewaterhouseCoopers), as well as Mena Gainpaulsingh (Director of the International Fundraising Consultancy), Elizabeth Gray-Smith (Senior Content Strategist at Bluesky Consulting Group) and Carl Neustaedt (Director of Communications for the Public Policy Forum). The Committee’s efforts are supported by the bookkeeping and administrative talents of local resident



Suneeta Millington is a founder of Prime Ministers’ Row.

Jan Finlay. Prime Ministers’ Row further benefits from the experience and expertise of Special Advisors, including The Honourable Landon Pearson, O.C., and Toronto-based urban designer and landscape architect George Dark. Over the last few months Prime Ministers’ Row has been working hand-in-hand with Mr. Dark, urban designer Sirous Ghanbar Zadeh and local landscape architect John Wright to develop extensive concept plans for the transformation of Laurier Avenue East.

These inspiring and exciting plans—which will be shared with the community in the coming months—provide a visual articulation of the transformative potential of the streetscape in relation to the four elements of the project; namely 1) infrastructure revitalization, 2) structural additions, 3) programming and events, and 4) multimedia platforms.

Over the coming months, small signs of Prime Ministers’ Row’s presence will start showing up along Laurier Avenue East, leading up to our official launch next summer. For example, PMR is already working with the City to address the diminishing tree canopy along Laurier Avenue East. Discussions are also going on with the City to add secondary signage and improved lighting along the street. These are small improvements but they are designed to help citizens begin to see and treat Laurier Avenue East differently, as the nationally important cultural space that it is. As the year unfolds, the Prime Ministers’ Row team will provide additional updates to the community.

The ability of Prime Ministers’ Row to grow and thrive depends on our grassroots membership base. Consider becoming a member or making a donation today to support our work. Simply go to: pmr-apm.ca/join-us/



Photo Paula Kelsall

Éve cafe on the top floor at Simons serves up coffee with a great view of some classic Ottawa rooftops.

Rideau Centre redux

Go for the glamour, stay for the snacks

Paula Kelsall

It’s hard to believe that the Rideau Centre renovations are wrapping up. In spite of the fanfare surrounding some major new stores, in spite of the fact the Ogilvy Building facade is now scaffolding-free and looking rather elegant, the scene on Rideau Street is still so dominated by the work on the LRT that it feels as though the whole district will be a construction site for the foreseeable future.

Inside the mall, however, there is a distinct sensation of being somewhere new and a bit exotic. Storefronts that have been shuttered for months are now welcoming us in to shops we’ve never seen before. A whole new wing with unfamiliar escalators sweeps us up to Simons. The corridors feel bright and spacious now that all the workmen have left. And now comes the most important question: once you’ve seen it all and you’re burdened down with shopping bags, where should you eat?

Much attention was focussed on the Rideau Centre food court when it reopened in 2014 on the south side of the mall, especially because the food outlets in what is now referred to by mall management as the Dining Hall are sharing dishwashing facilities and reusable dishes and cutlery. It does feel good not to have to pitch so much garbage at the end of lunch, and the new space does show some pizzazz with its brassy light fixtures, mirrors and raspberry-coloured upholstery. There’s plenty of variety in seating options, from stools at counters overlooking the shopping traffic to tables tucked away at the sides like old-fashioned restaurant booths.

As far as food goes, the dining hall has lots of quick food court classics (and who doesn’t love a Teenburger from time to

time?). There are also some outlets that are unique to the mall, such as Green Rebel, which serves up imaginative and healthy salads, sandwiches and smoothies. You’ll find several Asian options, including Indian, Thai and Chinese; a few places leaning toward the Mediterranean with Lebanese, Greek or Moroccan food; and a couple of outlets for burgers and fries. It’s also fun to find Purdys Chocolates just inside the entrance to the dining hall. It’s the first Purdys location I’ve seen outside British Columbia, and one of their cherry caramels is a good way to redeem a difficult day.

When you come right down to it though, lunch in the dining hall is still lunch on a tray, in a cavernous space with no natural light. If you want to go with a quick, predictable bite of fast-ish food, you might want to try the Bento Sushi outlet on the ground floor, near the north side of the mall, for a box of sushi or a rice or noodle bowl. Here the seating area is flooded with daylight from the glass ceiling and the weary shopper is less overwhelmed by choices or by the long trek from the cash register to the table.

For a chance to sit down and have food brought to you, both new department stores in the Rideau Centre have enjoyable options. By far the most ambitious (and expensive) of these is Bazille, on the top floor of Nordstrom. Bazille sports a festive bar, a fairly ambitious bistro-style menu, several wines sold by the glass and a sweet little patio that faces north to soak up the sun on the Rideau Centre roof. The prosciutto and arugula pizza is a thin-crust delight, and the crab macaroni and cheese is rich and comforting, although it might benefit from a little more crabmeat. A side dish of roasted cauliflower agrodolce is scattered with capers and raisins, and full of flavour. Disconcertingly, Bazille’s menu shows the calorie content of every item, but this did not stop my companion and me from ordering the crème brûlée with banana and chocolate sauce, which was quite large enough for two and delicious enough to banish any sense of guilt.

Simons also has a small oasis for the tired and hungry shopper. Éve is a tiny café on Simons’ top floor, tucked away behind the bath towels and the Customer Service desk. The menu here is very limited, but pleasant; you can get a grilled cheese and bacon sandwich on thick slices of sourdough bread or a rosemary-infused chicken club on a brioche roll. There are also a few salads, some fairly standard-looking pastries, an espresso machine and some posh organic soft drinks. What makes this café a delightful surprise, and a place I will be bringing out-of-town guests when we’re passing through the mall, is the knockout view over Rideau Street and the roofs of the ByWard Market. Stepping into the cafe is a bit disorienting, in a good way—the world outside those windows seems so familiar, and yet quite new, not unlike the Rideau Centre itself.

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The Third Information Age

Ron Hodgson

Most of the articles that I have written over the past several years have been concerned with changes and opportunities that we are experiencing due to what has been termed the Information Age. We are now about 20 years into it and I thought a view of information ages over the centuries might put this age in perspective.

A thousand years ago, in what could be termed "The Pre-Information Age," most humans knew and remembered what they had experienced or what they were told by their religious or community leaders. People were basically illiterate. Some had the opportunity to see artistic interpretations of events through stained glass windows, tapestries, statuary, carvings and sometimes, parchment illustrations. Relics of bygone civilizations could be found throughout the world but the context explaining why they were there was generally missing. History was passed down by songs and legends. The religious texts gave one explanation and were interpreted and carefully controlled by religious leaders before they were preached to the ordinary people.

The First Information Age was triggered by Johannes Gutenberg's invention of the printing press in about 1440. This invention drastically reduced the cost of replicating the texts that, up to then, had been laboriously transcribed by priests and scribes. Over the next few decades this opened up the availability of information to the masses, increased literacy, and upset the power of religious and political leaders. It was the first step in the democratization of information. This in turn led to the religious revolt known as the Reformation which essentially enabled individuals to personalize their religious beliefs. This age lasted some 300 to 350 years.

The start of the Second Information Age is less clearly defined, but I believe that this age coincided with the start of the Industrial Revolution about 1760. This revolution initiated the migration of much of the rural population to the cities where they lived in dismal surroundings but could count on a weekly wage as a factory employee. Then, with the invention and application of steam engines, mass long distance travel became possible. Ultimately this would herald the rise of international awareness, more universal literacy, the popular press, libraries, improved schooling methods, and in fact, the middle class. Later, with the invention of the telegraph, the telephone, radio and television, widespread and rapid information dissemination arrived. This age lasted 200 to 250 years.



We are now about 20 years into the Third Information Age—the age of the Internet. Information has expanded exponentially as a result of the World Wide Web and is extremely easy to obtain. The Second Age tools of libraries and encyclopaedias have been replaced by Google and Wikipedia. However, the ubiquity of information both public and private has been seen as a threat to many resulting in an ever-expanding need for Internet security. Security has become an international trillion-dollar business. Social networking has opened doors to people's lives that perhaps were never meant to be opened, sometimes leading to tragic results such as online bullying, child pornography and suicide. Social network threads can be extremely invasive as any member of Facebook or LinkedIn should be aware.

We have new words being introduced almost daily. Here are a few that we didn't know 20 years ago: hacker, The Cloud, avatar, texting, streaming, Googling, Smartphone, Skype, selfie, emoticon—the list goes on. One of the consequences of these new terminologies is that, whereas they are familiar to one generation, they may be totally foreign to an older one. If the Third Age is tending to segregate generational groups it may be creating an interesting situation where the young teach the old instead of the reverse.

At the start of the First Age, the communication horizon of the average human was tiny and very recognizable. Today it is global and unrecognizable to most. Humans have a tendency to accept what they can understand but would generally like to remain within the comfort zone of familiarity. Politicians are seizing the opportunity to develop popular nationalistic platforms based on this. But now politicians can no longer draw a veil over their private lives, sometimes to their detriment. Journalists are having a heyday.

I will continue to look at the various tools and aspects of the Third Age during the upcoming fall, winter and spring seasons of your good old Second Age newspaper, IMAGE. I welcome your feedback.



After many years and adventures in Sandy Hill, the Chahines have sold up and moved on. Above, l-r are Rania Chahine, Tony Ayoub, George Ayoub (original owner), Nouha Ayoub Chahine, Salim Chahine, Eman Chahine, Jamilie Ayoub (friend of family) and Rimam Chahine

Ce n'est qu'un au revoir....

Christine Aubry

Despite it being the middle of summer vacation time, we had a wonderful turnout for the Ayoub goodbye/adieu party on Sunday, August 7. There was hardly enough room to get around the food tables in the Preschool Room of the Sandy Hill Community Centre! Over 100 people stopped by (including past Sandy Hillers) to give their best wishes to the entire Ayoub/Chahine family.

There were tears, of course, but also many laughs and hugs. And lots of stories.

Everyone praised the delicious spread (Nouha brought us large trays of hummus, tabouleh, meat pies, kibbe, and lentils and rice) but what they appreciated the most was the opportunity to connect with the community and their neighbours. It was a fitting adieu for a family that has been a

pillar of our community for over 40 years.

Nouha and Sam are now enjoying some very well deserved rest in their new home in Alta Vista and the girls are looking forward to pursuing their own studies and careers.

Nouha and Rania stopped by Blackburn Avenue during the Sandy Hill Garage Sale to say hello and receive a special gift from Action Sandy Hill—a lovely plaque of a family photo with words of thanks (as well as a restaurant gift certificate from a group of neighbours, so that they may let others serve them for a change!).

Thank you to everyone who came out to make this such a heartwarming event for the entire family, and a big thank you to Karina Kraenzle, Caroline Couillard and Betsy Mann who, along with me, planned and executed a great party!

And if, like me, you can't imagine living without Nouha's hummus or tabouleh, worry not, she's not yet ready to retire completely! (Stay tuned...)



Tony Ayoub with former neighbour (and Action Sandy Hill president) Franceska Gnarowski. The lively farewell party was attended by all sorts of grateful people.

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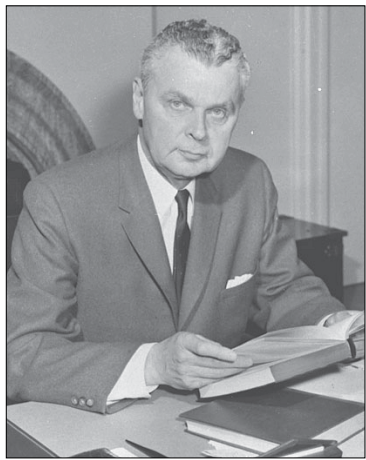
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CELEBRATING 17 GREAT YEARS IN THE GLEBE



John George Diefenbaker

In support of the initiative to designate Laurier Avenue East as Prime Ministers' Row to commemorate the prime ministers, Fathers of Confederation and other prominent Canadians who have made Sandy Hill their home, IMAGE is publishing short commentaries on several of our former distinguished neighbours. This fourth one features Canada's 11th prime minister.

François Bregha

Prime minister from 1957 to 1963, Diefenbaker championed human rights, granting the vote to Aboriginal people in federal elections and introducing the Canadian Bill of Rights, forerunner to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. He was the first Progressive Conservative prime minister after 22 years of Liberal rule.

Diefenbaker lived at two addresses in Sandy Hill: in 1953, he moved to 300½ Wilbrod (Sidmore Apartments) after he married his second wife, Olive Freeman. (He had stayed at the Chateau Laurier before that.) That was a busy year because he also ran in a new riding (as a result of redistribution) and he campaigned nationally for the Progressive Conservatives in the national election.

In 1955, he moved to the Strathcona Apartments (404 Laurier Ave. E.) where he and Olive lived until he became leader of the Progressive Conservative Party and leader of the official opposition in the House of Commons in December 1956. Built in 1927 to be Ottawa's finest address, the Strathcona boasted Ottawa's first indoor parking and a choice location in Sandy Hill close to Strathcona Park. The building features monumental Doric pillars, large balconies and an elaborate front entrance dominated by a five-storey art glass window. According to an ad of

the time, the roof featured "a wonderful garden providing all the delights and attractions of the 'promenade deck' on a large ocean liner."

Diefenbaker was an introvert and an outsider with few close friends, but he could be warm in private and loved to impersonate colleagues and adversaries and tell anecdotes. In public, he was a brilliant debater and an effective critic of the Liberal government during the 17 years he was in opposition. Throughout his career, he had a national reputation for championing civil rights and the welfare of average Canadians. His colourful speaking style made him a favourite of the press and a popular public speaker.

Diefenbaker was supremely confident and persistent. He ran in five elections over 15 years before winning a seat and it took him three tries to become the leader of his party. One of his biographers, Peter C. Newman, wrote that "no Canadian politician before him rose so steadily through a succession of personal humiliations."

Diefenbaker was a staunch monarchist and unflinchingly loyal to Britain and the Commonwealth. As a politician in opposition, he was aloof and rarely attended meetings of the Conservative caucus. In December 1956, when he finally won the party leadership, he ran as a populist and anti-establishment candidate. He became a controversial leader and often had to endure slings and arrows from his own party.

Les Habitations Varin Témoins du patrimoine bâti francophone de la Côte- de-Sable



par Michel Prévost

L'avenue Daly, au cœur de la Côte-de-Sable, possède de remarquables maisons en rangée dont les plus connues sont les Terrasses Philomène construites en 1870 par le propriétaire de carrières et premier député franco-ontarien à Queen's Park, Honoré Robillard, époux de Philomène Barrette. De là, le nom de cet imposant édifice en pierre calcaire de la région.

Sur la même belle avenue, on trouve un autre ensemble de logements en rangée, presque aussi exceptionnel, mais certainement beaucoup moins connu, les Habitations en rangée Varin, situées du 106 au 110, avenue Daly. Fait intéressant à noter, les deux bâtiments patrimoniaux sont liés au patrimoine bâti francophone de la Côte-de-Sable et de la capitale.

Ces luxueuses constructions sont bâties vers 1870 par les entrepreneurs franco-ontariens, les frères Charles et Eusèbe Varin. Ces résidences contigües en briques rouges sont uniques par leur habillage de briques et leurs fenêtres à arc à plein cintre. On observe, en outre, plusieurs attributs inhabituels pour l'époque, notamment les briques blanches pour les fondations. Cette dernière utilisation démontre sans doute qu'à l'époque la brique



Photo Ed Zolpis

demeure peu coûteuse par rapport à la pierre.

Les Habitations en rangée Varin se distinguent également par leurs vestibules en saillie à l'avant qui permettent aux occupants d'entrer par la porte latérale et surtout, de jouir de plus de lumière naturelle à l'intérieur. Par ailleurs les six petites lucarnes du pignon contribuent au charme de ce bâtiment patrimonial.

En fait, les Habitations Varin s'avèrent un très bel exemple des nouvelles constructions pour loger, après la Confédération de 1867, le personnel plus à l'aise de la fonction publique fédérale. Il ne fait pas de doute que des entrepreneurs franco-ontariens, tels les frères Varin, doivent une fière chandelle à la reine Victoria, qui, en 1857, a choisi Ottawa comme capitale du Canada uni. En réalité, la classe ouvrière d'une petite ville forestière comme Ottawa n'aurait jamais pu occuper un logement aussi spacieux.

Heureusement, ces bâtiments très bien conservés sont aujourd'hui protégés pour les générations à venir en vertu de la partie quatre de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*. Les Habitations Varin vont continuer à embellir encore pour longtemps ce secteur de la Côte-de-Sable.

Nous offrons des visites guidées de la Côte-de-Sable durant les beaux jours pour les groupes de 10 personnes et plus. Pour réserver une visite, composez le 613-562-5825 ou envoyez un courriel à michel.prevost@uottawa.ca. Les départs se font en face du pavillon Tabaret et la visite dure environ 2 heures.

Stewart Street (part of it) transformed and bikes rule

It was a summer of noise, dust and obstacles for the two blocks of Stewart St. between Friel and King Edward this year. From the end of June until well into August the street was completely torn up, and it was hard to figure out where to put your garbage on Monday nights, or what to tell your friends about where to park.

However, since the dust settled the street has been a joy to behold. The boulevards between the sidewalk and the road have doubled in width on both sides of the street, eliminating a full lane of traffic and making the street feel much greener and more welcoming. Openings in the newly poured concrete curbs allow storm water to run from the street directly into flower beds full of ornamental grasses and flowering perennials. These "rain gardens" are growing in soil above deep beds of gravel, which will absorb and filter the runoff and relieve our overburdened sewer system during heavy rainstorms. The bicycle lane is more clearly marked with a double painted line and flexible posts, and cyclists seem to be enjoying the freshly poured asphalt, as are numerous skateboarders and roller bladers who've arrived in the neighbourhood with the fall term.

— Paula Kelsall



Chaos reigned for more than a month.



And then there were a great bike route and a series of "rain gardens."

Photos
Paula
Kelsall

Bike breakthrough

I'm sitting on the front balcony writing this story, enjoying the look of our brand new street. There's emerald green sod from end to end, aggressive new speed humps, promising perennial strips at the curb and a much enhanced bike lane demarcated with flexible posts and a double white line. We took advantage of the fine day to have breakfast out here this morning. Like always I enjoy checking out the Sandy Hill cast of characters. There are girls with orange hair, pink and purple too; older fellows topped with Tilley caps and others with backward baseball caps. Well if you live in Sandy Hill you

know how delightful the people watching is. But at a certain point, while watching a small, tightly grouped set of cyclists making their way downtown, I got to wondering just how many bikes were using this route. I've been noticing increasing bike traffic over the last few years. So I decided to count, and I counted the cars and pedestrians too.

I counted from 8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. on a Tuesday morning. We are on what's called a Regional Collector Road so there's a good flow going downtown and I had to put away the *Globe* to keep up. It was exciting in a way that a retired man like myself would find exciting when the big decision after breakfast is what to have for lunch. The lead kept flipping between cars and bikes, with the pedestrians never really in the running. In the

end it was pretty clear. In this 45-minute stretch there were 97 bikes, 87 cars and 70 pedestrians. I admit I was rooting for the bikes but also surprised to see them win so convincingly. Perhaps I'll wait a few years and do another count. By then maybe there'll be so many cyclists they'll have to close the street to cars, the Greenland glaciers will be refreezing, polar bears will have plenty of ice floes to hunt from and the decline in snowy owl numbers will be reversed. It all brings a smile to my lips. Maybe we'll go to the ice cream mountain with the liquid chocolate river for dinner—on our bikes, of course!

— Ralph Blaine



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Photo Dodi Newman

Savoury nut cookery

Dodi Newman

Most of us use nuts only when we prepare sweet foods. But why limit ourselves? There is such a variety of nuts (even if, strictly speaking, not all of them are nuts): cashews, almonds, hazelnuts, peanuts, pine nuts, walnuts, and more. All are highly nutritious and can be used in many different ways. I find that nuts add a pleasing texture, a subtle, yet distinctive flavour, and mellow the harsher notes of some ingredients.

To tempt you, here are a few ideas for savoury nut cookery. Bon Appétit!

ALMOND SAUCE: Thicken a cup of thin white sauce with almond flour until the sauce has the consistency you want. Flavour it with tarragon for chicken or fish; with cilantro and a light touch of cinnamon and nutmeg for chicken, and with parsley and nutmeg for broccoli or Brussels sprouts. Thicken a curry sauce the same way - the almond flour will round out the flavour and add a lovely consistency.

PESTO: Pesto made with pine nuts or almonds and basil, parsley and walnuts, or sunflower seeds and kale; however you make it, it is an indispensable sauce for adding interest to dishes from pasta to beets, pizza to grilled chicken. For a basil pesto, search for "Basil Pesto" at the Epicurious site, www.epicurious.com. The recipe (by Catherine McCord) will be the first one shown. Double the recipe, omit

the cheese, freeze it, and add the appropriate amount of cheese to the defrosted pesto just before using it.

CARROT NUT LOAF: Aida Karaglan's Carrot Nut Loaf is one of my favourite entrées featuring nuts. Her recipe calls for breadcrumbs, but making it with bulgur instead gives it a more interesting texture. My adaptation of the recipe was published on p. 14 of the October-November 2011 issue of IMAGE; go to "Archives" at www.imagesandyhill.org to find it.

CIRCISSIAN CHICKEN WITH WALNUT SAUCE: Walnuts with their sweet yet tangy flavour make wonderful sauces. Claudia Roden's recipe for Circassian Chicken in her book, "The New Book of Middle Eastern Food," includes an easy recipe for a walnut sauce that transforms a plain boiled chicken into a sumptuous entrée fit for your most demanding guests. Here is my version:

In a small pot, bring 2 cups walnuts, ground (or 1 cup walnuts, ground, and 1 cup white breadcrumbs), and 1 1/2 cups of homemade chicken broth (use the broth from the boiled chicken) to a gentle boil, stirring often. Simmer for 5 minutes, adding more broth as needed to make a thick sauce. Cut a boiled chicken into bite-sized pieces, mix 1/2 to 3/4 of the sauce in with the chicken; serve the rest separately. Serve hot with rice or at room temperature with pita bread. Just before serving, drizzle the chicken with 1 teaspoon sweet paprika briefly heated in 3 tablespoons vegetable oil. The sauce is also good with grilled vegetables.

ALL SAINTS BOOK SALE FOR PMR

Sunday November 13, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
10 Blackburn Ave. lower hall

The All Saints book sale returns this year and we need your help to raise some funds for Prime Ministers Row. We need books and we need people!

If you have books in good condition, CDs or DVDs to donate, you can take them to All Saints at 10 Blackburn Ave. beginning on Monday November 7. (No computer or text books please.)

We need volunteers to help sort and sell books. If you would like to get involved contact Jane at jm_ott@yahoo.com or 613-565-4828.

The book sale will be on at the same time as the new All Saints Market in Bate Hall. Come out on November 13, see your neighbours, find some bargains and support Prime Ministers Row.

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



Caffeine 1UP...new, across from Loblaws.

do yourself a favour and drop by to enjoy the flower boxes around their patio, not to mention the masses of marigolds, sunflowers, dahlias and morning glories distracting the eye from the adjacent chain link fence. Their pizza is great too; a fine quick bite before a movie at the ByTowne or a pick-me-up after a big shop at Loblaws.

Links Pub and Lounge, 426 Rideau St. Abundant helpings, friendly service and lots of flavourful options make this restaurant a reliable choice for an enjoyable, unpretentious meal. Vegetable fajitas are quite a feast at \$9.95, four flour tortillas arriving with a platter heaped with garnishes and a hot iron plate full of sizzling vegetables, including onions, peppers, broccoli and cauliflower. The burger is a generous, hand-formed patty garnished with cheddar, baby greens, tomato and bacon, with big, tender fries on the side. Links is also a good bet for breakfast; try the California Natural Benedict, with avocado and roasted tomatoes nestled underneath the poached eggs and topped with a drizzle of pesto over the hollandaise.

Caffeine 1UP, 362 Rideau St. 1-Up is a reference to the video game Super Mario, when players are granted an extra life. "In this instance, caffeine is our extra life," says Heather, the proprietor of this homey new café and video game parlour across from Loblaws. Featuring 6 gaming stations, 9 systems and over 200 multiplayer games (to bring people together around the consoles), the café will also appeal to the non-gamer who just wants a good cappuccino. A wonderful aroma of coffee will make you happy you stepped into this cheery establishment. The freshly made sandwiches on Rideau Bakery bread, vegan and gluten-free products from Strawberry Blonde and the chance to play the games of your youth may well encourage you to become a regular.

Cumberland Pizza, 152 Nelson St. Has any business in Sandy Hill done a better job of beautifying an unpromising streetscape than Cumberland Pizza has this summer? Before the first frost hits,

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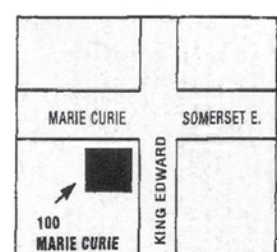
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15 oct - L'Association provinciale libérale d'Ottawa-Vanier tiendra une réunion de nomination de candidat, le 15 octobre, à 11 heures, à l'École secondaire De La Salle, au 501 ancienne rue Saint-Patrick. A nomination convention will be held by the Ottawa-Vanier Provincial Liberal Association, to elect a candidate, Oct. 15 at 11:00 a.m., l'École secondaire De La Salle, 501 Old St. Patrick St.

Oct 21 - Centre 507's Fall Fling returns (www.centre507.org) 6 - 9 p.m. featuring music by Orkidstra. Tickets \$30 each, available at Centre 507, 507 Bank Street, 613-233-5626 x21; Chili Dinner for all palates. Silent auction! Door prizes! Fun and fundraising!

Oct 27 - New café to open in SHCHC - Urban Beat/Pouls Urbain Café will be a new social enterprise café on the first floor of the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre at 221 Nelson St.. The operator is Erin Cochrane (who used to run T.A.N. Café on Wilbrod St.). It will be open to the public weekdays 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. and will serve T.A.N. coffee, other specialty beverages, as well as a simple selection of food and baked goods provided by local partners.

Oct. 30 - Shakespeare in Song, a concert performed by the Cantata Singers, 3:00 p.m., St. Joseph's Church, 174 Wilbrod St. Tickets, Adult \$30, Senior \$25, cantatasingersottawa.ca.

Nov. 5-6 - The University of Ottawa's Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program presents "Yiddish in the New Millennium: A Symposium on New Yiddish Language and Culture." Innovations since the year 2000. Free, but registration is required. Visit yiddishnewmillennium.yolasite.com.

Nov. 5 - Something New Edinburgh is back; local artisans, a vibrant urban community, and one-of-a-kind craftsmanship once again team up at Memorial Hall (39 Dufferin Road), 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. Browse the wares, then grab lunch with The Flatbread Pizza Company. www.facebook.com/somethingnewedinburgh; somethingnewedinburgh@gmail.com

Nov. 13 — All Saints Book Sale for Prime Ministers' Row; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 10 Blackburn Ave. lower hall. Volunteers needed; see notice p. 13

Oct-Nov Programs at the Rideau Branch Library - 377 Rideau St.

Adult programs / Programmes pour adultes

Pen and Paper Writer's Circle
Every Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m.

Morning Book Club Monthly on the third Thursday at 10:15 a.m.
Oct. 20 – God on the Rocks
Nov. 17 – H is for Hawk

Evening Book Club Monthly on Monday evenings at 7 p.m.
Oct. 3 – The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao
Nov. 7 – The Secret Chord
Dec. 5 – Emma by Jane Austen

Groupe de lecture Mille-Feuilles, Certains mercredis à 18h45
26 oct. – C'était au temps des mammoths laineux
30 nov. – L'étrange voyage de M. Daldry

Children's programs / Programmes pour enfants

Family storytime / Contes en famille
Tuesdays at 10:30; From Sept. 13 to Oct. 25 **and** from Nov. 8 to Dec. 6

Les mardis à 10h30 du 13 sept. au 25 oct. **et** du 8 nov. au 6 déc.

Fire Safety Storytime / Heure du conte avec le Service des incendies d'Ottawa
Tues Oct. 11, 10:30 a.m. / Le mardi 11 oct., 10h30

News from Viscount Alexander School



A diverse display in the school entrance celebrates a double anniversary.

Michael Barnes

2016 marks two important anniversaries for Viscount Alexander Public School:

- the 125th anniversary of the birth of Harold Alexander, later Viscount Alexander of Tunis, after whom the school is named;
- the 65th anniversary of Viscount Alexander Public School which was opened on September 24, 1951 by Viscount Alexander.

This year 192 students, from junior kindergarten to grade 6, attend Viscount Alexander School. Over 10,000 students have attended Viscount over the 65 years it has served Sandy Hill.

Harold Alexander was born in 1891 in London, England and served as Governor General of Canada from 1946–1952. Before that he had been a soldier in the First and Second World Wars, earning many honours.

He was a very popular and successful Governor General. He loved Canada and enjoyed meeting Canadians, travelling more than 184,000 miles to meet them during his five years as Governor General. That's a long way, almost from here to the moon and in an age when transportation was quite a bit slower than today.

Viscount Alexander enjoyed fishing, golf, hockey and rugby and also liked to paint. He was fond of the outdoors and liked attending the maple syrup harvest; he supervised the tapping of the maple

trees on the grounds of Rideau Hall to make maple syrup.

He and his wife, Margaret Bingham, had four children, including one adopted during their stay in Canada. He was created 1st Earl Alexander of Tunis and Baron Rideau of Ottawa, on March 14, 1952.

We are fortunate to have the school named after Viscount Alexander. He helped make Canada a better place. We encourage our students to do the same.

Welcome Games enjoyed by all

Our Welcome Games were a great success. Students were placed into multi-grade groups and travelled the schoolyard learning how to play a variety of recess games. Our grade 5/6 classes took the lead as groups moved through the games, and staff spent time teaching the rules and playing the games. A special thank you goes out to Mrs. Fulford for organizing the Games and this fun afternoon.

Welcome Back BBQ, Meet the Staff

Meet the Staff night was held on September 22 beginning with a BBQ at 5 p.m. Afterwards the staff invited parents and guardians to visit classrooms and tour the school. There was a good turnout and just a sprinkle of rain so the BBQ took place outdoors.

Thanks to the volunteers from the School Council and others for all the helping hands in the setup, takedown and managing the food line! In the words of the School Council Chair, Susan Green, "While a little messy, the ice cream went down well, too. It seems like everyone had a good time and enjoyed the BBQ".

Looking for information about the school?

Please call the office to find out more at 613-239-2213; have your questions answered and/or arrange to visit the school.

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Striking Poses

Photo Jane Waterston



Farewell, Michelle! Since 1995, Michelle Demers has been helping clients of the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre receive primary care services. In September, two days before her official retirement as supervisor of administration services, Michelle paused for this photo. —J. Waterston



Photo Janet Leblanc

Transfixed by transformation—On a sunny afternoon in September, children from the Bettye Hyde Cooperative Early Learning Centre walked the few blocks to nearby Strathcona Park. There members of the Ottawa Stilt Union theatre company were waiting to give them a special performance of their interactive play, *ArborAmor*. To begin, they watched Laura Astwood don her costume and her stilts as she slowly transformed into a tree. At first some little ones were a bit wary, but the music of the accordion and the lively tango and comic acrobatics of the other members of the troupe soon had them involved in the simple story of a tree that learns to dance. At the end, the brave ones got up to dance with the performers. —Betsy Mann

L—Happiness at the wheel(barrow). Susan Young did more than supervise the “power plant” on Somerset St. E., September 24.

Photo Kathleen Kelly



Discover your dreams

Indra Fernando

Have you considered that discovering your dream may also lead you to discovering your dream job? Achieving your dream is possible with Toastmasters! There are many reasons why people join Toastmasters. Some want to improve their communication skills. Others join to develop or improve their leadership skills.

Whether you're a professional, a student or a stay-at-home parent, you could benefit from Toastmasters. A Toastmasters club will not only help you be a better speaker, but a better listener as well, because you will not only receive constructive feedback but also learn how to give it to others.

What are your current dreams? Perhaps to complete the manual you are working on, or even a specific assignment or hold a meeting or get that dream job? Whatever your dream is, I encourage you to see the vision, *develop* an action plan, *trust* in yourself, *re-evaluate* your progress and your plan from time-to-time to ensure you are on course, *ask* for help and support if required, and *allow* yourself to make your dream come true.

Experience how Toastmasters can help you, just as it has helped millions of others around the world. Creativity Plus Toastmasters club meets every Tuesday evening from 6.30 to 8.00 p.m. at the Sandy Hill Community Centre, 250 Somerset Street East. Guests are always welcome. Here is a marvellous opportunity to see for yourself a Toastmasters meeting in action and speak to current members about their experiences.

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If music be the food of love, play on!

Nadine Dawson

Shakespeare knew the power of music—to soothe Orsino's lovesick heart, to taunt Malvolio for his misplaced affection, to trace the scorned Ophelia's madness, or foretell Desdemona's tragic death at the hands of her lover.

Just as Shakespeare's words have lived on, so too has music inspired by his writing. To commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Bard's death, Cantata Singers of Ottawa, under the direction of Andrew McAnerney, is performing *Shakespeare in Song*, a concert featuring 500 years of music inspired by an enduring love affair with this great man of words.

In the concert will be popular music of the day that Shakespeare included in his plays, as well as music said to have been written especially for Shakespeare by his musical collaborators. Rounding out the program will be a selection of music inspired by Shakespeare's words in the

400 years since his death. Three major works will be featured: Vaughan Williams' evocative “Three Shakespeare Songs;” jazz-legend, George Shearing's settings of Shakespeare's poetry and plays, entitled “Music to Hear,” and “Songs from Shakespeare,” written for the Stratford Festival by Canadian composer Harry Freedman.

Shakespeare in Song, Sunday, October 30, 3:00 p.m., St. Joseph's Church, 174 Wilbrod St. Tickets, Adult \$30, Senior \$25, early purchase discount \$5, Student \$10, available at the door, or may be purchased in person at The Leading Note or Compact Music. To purchase tickets online, or for information about Cantata Singers and its 53rd season, please visit cantatasingersottawa.ca.



UrbanOttawa.com



Bermuda Mews - \$355,000: Elegant townhome in Urban Ottawa's Carson Grove neighbourhood. Spaciously designed living spaces: it's a WOW! Stunning rear-yard/patio, cozy solarium, custom designed clever-cooks kitchen, living room with dramatic 2-storey ceiling overlooked by the dining room. Spacious master bedroom with ensuite and two more bedrooms and full bathroom. Finished lower-level family room. No fuss, no muss living ... the exterior is taken care of for you!



711 Hemlock - Land value \$800,000: Development Site - . Rare opportunity to develop/build in Urban Ottawa's Manor Park neighbourhood. There's a funky, retro, three bedroom house on the property - completely liveable until you're ready for the next step OR, maybe a major renovation on a fabulous 100 X 116 lot. Northeast corner of Hemlock & Birch overlooking the woods of the Beechwood Cemetery. Opportunities abound for this very special property!



4 Seth Private - \$319,000: Quiet, private street in Urban Ottawa's Carson Grove neighbourhood. Totally refurbished top to bottom: it's a "WOW"! Late 80's construction updated for the 21st century. Three bedrooms on the top floor, generous living, dining and kitchen on the second floor, spacious family room on main floor with walk out to courtyard. All the modern conveniences. Garage with inside entry. Walk to CMHC, Cite Collegiale, Montfort Hospital & CSIS. Great value!

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Diary of a miracle

Annegret Hunter

June 20. Early morning calm. Woken up by loud crash and thump. Saw large branch from huge backyard willow lengthwise on garage. Then wrenching noise, terrible, deafening, as half the willow cracked, broke, fell towards us. Certain to be last moments of life—ours.

Survived! Flashlight inspection showed: limbs and branches one inch from house. Phone lines down. Garden a messy jungle. Garage leaning crazily under willow camouflage, door had popped open, car pinned down on back wheel by branch through garage roof, like spear.

Spent morning getting help. The tree company came—in awe of the sight. Could not free car, because of danger of garage collapse, which would bring down electricity pole. Huge limb rested on wire attached from willow trunk to very bent pole. A delicate balance.

Hydro came— in awe of the sight. Advised not to touch anything. Hope for a wind-still night.

June 21. A windy night! Garage tilted some more, otherwise no change.

The Hydro tree chaps came—in awe of the sight. Decided to get the car out first. Nerve-racking moments! Old garage still hanging on, a real trooper—car undamaged.

Wire freed from limbs. Amazing operation! Hydro pole straightened itself.



Garage door popped open, car pinned by branch!

June 22. Noisy but interesting day. Watched remarkable precision work by tree removal company. Got overly sentimental as last block of trunk lifted onto truck.

Our willow, a hundred years old, for the last twenty-five our green umbrella, shade and curtains, living quarters and playground for countless creatures, beloved by us all. We'll miss it dreadfully, our backyard beauty.

Peered out of the clivia-clad window for a last tearful farewell. Got clivia seven years ago, healthy, but never did bloom, silly thing. Looked at it—and, well, I'll be jiggered! A growing flower stem: the clivia is in bloom!

Must stop being such an emotional old thing.

Photo Jan Meldrum

More about Sandy Hill trees



Mann Ave. is looking greener, thanks to a Site Plan condition of the re-development of the former St. Clement's Church (87 Mann). Action Sandy Hill and neighbours asked that the developer install these planters with their Japanese lilacs and day lilies, as well as trees on the site of the new development, to compensate for lost trees and loss of immediate neighbour privacy. Shout out to the Strathcona Heights neighbour who has already begun watering! — Susan Young

Not everyone tends and nourishes trees around here—some nail signs into them.



For these, one would call 3-1-1.



When he heard about the official sign on Daly Ave., pictured above, City staffer Dan Garvey wrote, “We do not install development signs on trees. ... it is unacceptable and will be removed.”

Student brigade helps get the job done



The late-September “power plant” of perennials along Somerset East was abetted by the work of these three green-shirted university students.



They returned, with reinforcements, on October 2, to continue the park clean-up — recovering 11 bags-worth of trash from curbs and gardens. Who are these local heroes (rumoured to be engineering students and residents of the old St-Pierre school on Friel St.)? L-r Funmi Soroye, Christina Scholtes, Jonathan Schultz, Chao Hong, Jian Mei, Amber Sidhu, Tianyuan Yang, and Will (Xiao) Han.

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