



Our community association recently appealed the City's approval of this development at the corner of Rideau and Cobourg streets.

Ontario Municipal Board Good or evil?

Larry Newman

On November 21, just last month, Action Sandy Hill (ASH) took the City of Ottawa and Richcraft Homes to the woodshed, i.e., the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB), to dispute the approval of a high-rise building at the corner of Rideau and Cobourg Streets. This hearing was presided over by Mr. R. G. M. Makuch, who has heard all three previous appeals that ASH has supported in the last 12 years—awarding the decision to the developer each time.

That tower is just one of several problems with Richcraft's proposed development. However, the thrust of this article is not to exhaustively list ASH's objections but to reveal the often prohibitive amounts of time, money, and effort needed to launch an appeal to the OMB. Although ASH has appealed some proposed developments, these factors have been a substantial barrier to appealing many other developments that have produced bunk-houses or buildings clearly not conforming to the character of the neighbourhood.

ASH can find itself at an OMB hearing via two routes. The first route begins when a developer is unhappy with the City's decision to deny all or some part of its application. The developer then appeals to the OMB, and ASH may join with the City to defend the City's decision. The second route is one in which the City approves the application and the community (i.e. ASH) appeals. This was the route taken that inspired this article.

Appealing a City ruling that favours a developer is difficult. One must counter arguments from two perspectives: the developer's design and the City's rationale to accept it. ASH's first thoughts were to negotiate before a hearing became necessary. When that was not agreed upon, the ASH directors knew that they would have to raise money, hire an experienced lawyer and an urban planner, then prepare the information needed to defend their argument at an OMB hearing.

They knew this because ASH had previously presented their objections at the OMB as participants—a role in which they were not allowed to cross-examine witnesses. ASH had neither a lawyer nor a planner for support. The OMB member (Mr. Makuch) did not hesitate to make his decision the same day on the spot. He noted that no expert witness was called by ASH to dispute the expert witness of the developer. Appeal denied!

Continued, p. 6

Rideau Library gets tech improvements

Jan Meldrum

The Rideau Library has announced a 10-day closure "for improvements" —Dec. 5–15, reopening Fri, Dec. 16.

The improvements were outlined in an email notice:

- 1- Full conversion to Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID);
- 2- A new point of service.

What does this tech-speak mean to ordinary people?

The RFID system allows better identification of library materials, replacing barcodes, and improves inventory control. Included is the installation of two self-checkout machines, adding Rideau to 75% of Ottawa Public Library branches already outfitted with these machines. The plan is to have all branches outfitted by sometime next year.

With the self-checkout machines installed, the circulation desk will no longer be needed. New adult tables will be placed at that location, while an expanded service hub will replace the small information desk at the back of the room.

The checkout machines will be on each side of the walkway from the door. A machine can accept up to five titles at a time to be checked out.

When I complained, to Library Manager Philip Robert, that machines are impersonal and I liked to chat with a staff member during checkout, he encouraged me to continue to interact with staff anytime while in the library. He said that all together there will be more staff hours after the change. With money saved by the au-



Photo Jan Meldrum



Photo Jan Meldrum

Katherine van der Linden, the librarian from Rideau branch, demonstrating a machine in Vanier Library.

tomation there will be more time for library outreach programs—to schools and drop-in centres, for example—and public service programs. The one staff member I did ask was very excited about having more interesting duties without the drudgery of checkout and in.

Welcome to another step in our high-tech world.

Left— Reading fairy arrives at the Rideau Library garden. This golden fairy absorbed in her book was donated by volunteer gardener Diane Stephenson. The figure decorated Diane's garden before she moved to an apartment. Reaction to it from library users has been very positive according to the staff.



Shop local!

Seasonal treasures available right here in Sandy Hill

Yvonne Van Alphen and Dave Elden went looking once again for great gifts in the 'hood and here's what they found! See page 9.



Candles by Amanda Rowlings and paintings by John Benn (left), and green wall units (above) by Sandy Hill landscaper Marilyn Whittaker.

Photos David Elden

IMAGE

Founded in 1972 under the
direction of Diane Wood

22, av. Russell Ave.
Ottawa K1N 7W8

Fondé en 1972 sous la
direction de Diane Wood

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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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(target delivery February 3)

Date de tombée

Publicité, articles, photos et autres soumissions

le 18 janvier, 2017

(livraison prévue le 3 février)

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From Ken Clavette's Album of Bygone Sandy Hill



Rideau Street winter c 1950, Malak Karsh MIKAN no. 4511537



Rideau Street winter c 1955, Malak Karsh MIKAN no. 4511538

Christmas on Rideau

Rideau has always been Sandy Hill's main street, it is where we all went to shop. Here the street is displaying all its Christmas glory in the 1950s.

Our readers write ...

Reaction to an article titled "Biplane overflights another noise concern" in the Oct-Nov issue.

Biplane sound appreciated

Sandy Hillers, in general, appreciate the architecture of our fine old homes, even those tastefully converted to rooming houses. Many of us also enjoy old technology, such as the biplane that regularly graces our sky

Let me here state, John Cockburn, that I treasure the sight and sound of those biplane flights, and have been known to pay ready money to ride in one.

Dave Willis
Range Road

Courrier des lecteurs

Biplane noise not appreciated

Thank you, Mr. Cockburn, for your well written article. They are a noise concern for Sandy Hill, but did you know that you cannot escape the low flying "birds" in both the Glebe and Westboro, as well?

This noise is such an intrusion. Two years ago, the former owner told me that nothing had changed in their flight patterns. I said, "Why don't you provide everyone who complains one free flight over Ottawa?" at which he chuckled.

We should set up a petition and send it to Mathieu Fleury—I'll be the first to volunteer to knock on neighbours' doors for signatures.

Julia Campbell
Range Road

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Guest Editorial

The future of Uptown Rideau and the OMB

After the recent conclusion of the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing on the proposed development of a new highrise at 560 Rideau Street (at the corner of Cobourg), now seems an opportune time to reflect on the future of both the Uptown Rideau Plan and the future of the OMB.

Uptown Rideau, which includes Rideau Street from King Edward Avenue to the Cummings Bridge, was the subject of a comprehensive planning study conducted by the City of Ottawa, concluding last November when Council adopted the Uptown Rideau Community Design Plan (URCDP) and Secondary Plan. Secondary Plans and Community Design Plans are intended to translate the principles and policies of the City's Official Plan to the community scale and are developed for areas where significant change is anticipated. Secondary Plans are statutory documents with the full force of the law, while Community Design Plans are detailed guidelines that further the vision of Secondary Plans.

The URCDP review was carried out with significant community involvement. It identified four distinct Character Areas along this stretch of Rideau and concluded that Character Area A, the south side of Rideau Street between Chapel and Cummings Bridge, had little development potential as it was characterized by shallow lots on Rideau that abutted mostly low-rise heritage buildings on Besserer. Consequently, Character Area A was determined to be inappropriate for high-rise development.

Sadly, the URCDP as adopted by City Council includes an exception in Character Area A to allow a 14-storey high-rise at 560 Rideau. This resulted from an application in 2013 by Richcraft to build an 18-storey building on this site at the corner of Rideau and Cobourg. The site was zoned partially for nine storeys, due to a previous OMB decision, and partially for six. Through the development review process the 18 storeys was eventually lowered to 14, and finally approved by City Council in August 2015.

Action Sandy Hill appealed Council's approval of the 14-storey high-rise and the exception in the URCDP that allowed this, to the OMB. The OMB hearing of our appeals began November 21 and lasted 2 1/2 days. Thanks to the funds previously raised for the SAVE SANDY HILL effort, and the contributions of more than 85 Sandy Hillers and friends of Sandy Hill, ASH was able to engage a lawyer, Joshua Moon, and an urban planner, Michel Frojmovic.

Together, they outlined a clear argument: the City had no planning rationale for ap-

proving the 14-storey tower; the intent of Character Area A in the URCDP was compromised; the City did no independent modelling to determine the impact of a high-rise in this area; and the City had poorly assessed the impact on the adjacent Heritage Conservation District.

It may be several months before the OMB issues its decision on this appeal, and we know the OMB has a reputation for dismissing residents' concerns, but those of us working on the appeal are unanimous in our view that ASH was very well served by its professional experts. It's worth noting that, realizing ASH had professional help, Richcraft continued to revamp the design right up to the first day of the hearing, hoping to make it more palatable to the community.

In November 2015 the Province launched a review of the scope and effectiveness of the OMB. As part of the review, there is a public consultation document which outlines five themes for review. These include: the OMB's jurisdiction and powers; citizen participation and local perspective; clear and predictable decision-making; modern procedures and faster decisions; and, alternative dispute resolution and fewer hearings.

The recent experience at the OMB has informed ASH's comments on OMB reform. The lack of accessibility of the OMB is a significant issue for communities. The cost and lack of availability of professional experts is a real burden to citizen participation. As well, the OMB's jurisdiction and powers are too broad, with a single appointed board member having the authority to overrule the decision of our elected Council. ASH's input to this review will focus on the need to address these main issues.

Thankfully the future of both Uptown Rideau and the OMB is looking brighter. By spring 2017 the transformation of Uptown Rideau may be underway, with Trinity Group breaking ground at Rideau and Chapel after all. Trinity has been working with the City to finalize the Site Plan and Roadway Modification Agreements. It expects that they will be able to begin work on the development, which will include two 25-storey towers with around 600 residential units and significant retail space.

By spring, we should also know the outcome of our OMB appeal of Richcraft's 14-storey building. And we hope that the Province will have implemented changes to the OMB to curb its powers and facilitate more citizen participation.

Chad Rollins

Chad Rollins is President of the community association Action Sandy Hill

IMAGE Abroad, November 2016



Catching up, in the Judean desert between Jerusalem and Jericho.

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Photo John Verbaas

How about those cycling improvements on Somerset!

John Verbaas

In September a number of changes were made on Somerset Street East to improve the experience of cycling along the corridor in recognition of its increasing importance as a key route in the Ottawa cycling network. The changes came about after consultations between ASH and the City that included debates about the trade-offs between competing needs for space requirements for parking, cycling, buses, and cars.

The biggest change is the addition of what is referred to as “advisory bike lanes” on the section east of Chapel Street. This is a new way to configure a narrow roadway and requires a change in the way drivers share the road to give priority to cyclists.

These advisory cycle lanes have been added on both sides of the road but are different from “traditional” cycle lanes in that they are delineated by painted dashed lines. The addition of these lanes

on Somerset results in the remaining width of the road being insufficient to allow cars travelling in opposite directions to pass each other between the bike lanes. In this situation where cars will be meeting from opposite directions and if there is a cyclist(s) in the bike lane, the drivers must slow down and wait behind the cyclist(s) until the cars pass. After that the cars may overtake the cyclist by moving to the centre of the road. If there happens to be no cyclists in the bike lanes when cars meet then the cars are allowed to pass each other simultaneously by driving in the space taken up by the bike lane. This is why the bike lane delineation paint is dashed and not solid.

This is a first trial implementation of this configuration in Ottawa and is considered in cases where the speed on the road is slower (Somerset has been reduced to 40 km/hr) and where the car volumes are lower (such that the frequency of cars meeting in opposite directions is expected to be low).

Further west on Somerset the street be-

comes slightly narrower and supports a bus route in both directions. (Streets with buses are required to allow wider space allowances in the travel lanes.) As a result there was insufficient width on the street to support the advisory bike lane concept and it was not implemented in this section. Bike sharrow markings were added to the street instead.

Finally in the last few blocks towards King Edward, parking was removed from the street which then allowed sufficient width to add full bike lanes (solid painted lines) in combination with two-way car lanes.

Further improvements to support cyclists could be possible on Somerset Street East especially in the central sections near the Sandy Hill Community Centre. However these would involve removing some on-street parking as well as reconfiguring some existing road narrowings which currently force cyclists into the car lanes. Discussions are continuing with the City to evaluate the costs/benefits and trade-offs of these potential changes.

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As the snow season blows into town, we ask... Will this be another year of doing less with less?

We can all be pleased with the announcements from the federal government for additional infrastructure cash. But let’s remember this is “one-time money” to build new facilities. These will then have to be maintained and renewed on the City’s dime.

And every year, as the City approves its budget, we are leaving more and more people behind. And our service standards are dropping.

Seniors stepping over huge snowbanks at bus stops, parents struggling to understand and navigate the daycare system, recreation facility staff seeing their hours cut, food cupboards distributing less and less food to more and more people.

For the last five years, we have been moving the deck chairs around on the Titanic that is Ottawa’s 2% budget world.

Before all the snow melts and we conveniently forget about it for six months, let’s talk about Ottawa’s winter maintenance budget.

Here are some recent numbers:

YEAR	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE
2013	56M	79M	(23M)
2014	57M	69M	(12M)
2015	59M	67M	(8M)
3 yrs avg	57M	71M	(14M)
2016	63M	?	?

The average expenditure for snow removal for the last three years is \$73M. The 2016 budget number is \$63M. A basic budget program would not suggest a 15% reduction from actuals unless there is an ironclad guarantee that there will be 15% less snow.

But we’re told not to worry, that the City can take the shortfall out of reserves. What are these reserves? How much money is in them? How long will that last? Try to find out and you will hit a wall of unimaginable bureaucratic obfuscation.

Continuing to underbudget after three years of operating deficits and relying on diminishing reserves is hardly prudent fiscal management.

Early in the season, there was talk about Ottawa having a gold-plated service compared to other cities. Other cities appar-

ently don’t clear sidewalks, leaving that to the building owners. What happens when someone is too ill or old to shovel or is away for two weeks in February?

The two cities in Ontario with most snowfall are Barrie and Sudbury. With the exception of a small CBD portion in Barrie, both cities plow sidewalks within 24 hours of a 5 cm snowfall. Quebec City, which averages 303 cm of snow compared to Ottawa’s average of 175 cm, also commits to clearing sidewalks within 24 hours.

If the City wishes to encourage transit usage and walking as real modes of transportation, is it not reasonable to ensure that bus users and pedestrians are able to get to work, go shopping, catch a show or go to the dentist?

For many winters, complaints have been made that the streets around the University as well as other locations in Sandy Hill have been plowed but the sidewalks were cleared much later. Councillor Fleury has challenged City staff to deal with this problem. He asks that residents notify his office if this situation continues and provide location and pictures. He wants to build a solid case for making further arguments in favour of timely sidewalk clearing.

There is a rumour that the City will be going out to consult with constituents about the level of winter maintenance. Are they thinking of reducing service standards? Are you willing to shovel your sidewalk or wait more than 24 hours to use your vehicle?

Underbudgeting and then blaming residents for being “entitled” is not just poor financial management, it’s poor political representation.

This article was developed by a group of residents increasingly concerned by how the City budget process has unfolded over the past several years and the widening gap between revenues and growth, with increasing unmet needs as a result. It was circulated by former Councillor for Somerset Ward Diane Holmes.



Photo Bill Blackstone

Newsbites

Recent mayhem on Henderson

Two men were stabbed on the evening of October 30 near the corner of Somerset East and Henderson. This was part of a violent event that involved residents of nearby rooming houses owned by Ottawa Community Housing. The residents are administered by the John Howard Society. Three people were evicted and four others were allowed to remain under more stringent conditions.

A month later, Ottawa Police responded to a disturbance call on Henderson Avenue between Osgoode and Somerset East. The tenant requested several individuals be removed from his unit. Three women became combative and two were later charged with aggravated assault on a police officer. Quantities of drugs were seized. One rifle and one shotgun were also located inside the residence.

Trinity Group development

In our last issue IMAGE printed a for sale advertisement for the Trinity property at Rideau and Chapel—"an approved high-rise development opportunity" according

to the ad. We have learned that, despite the advertisement, Trinity expects that work will begin on the development—two 25-storey residential towers and significant retail space—in spring 2017.

Province to contribute to truck tunnel environmental study

Last August, the City and the Province initiated a study to examine the feasibility of a tunnel for trucks in downtown Ottawa linking the Macdonald-Cartier Bridge and Nicholas Street/Highway 417. The study concluded that it was feasible and the next step proposed was an environmental study of the route. That will cost \$5 million. Mme Nathalie Des Rosiers, the new MLA for Ottawa-Vanier, just announced that the Province will pay \$2.5 million toward the cost. Next step—the feds.

Regular bus service returns to Rideau

Accommodating the LRT construction in the Rideau Centre area, OC Transpo had rerouted buses and had announced that regular service would start again on December 25. Their latest announcement is that regular service will now start on December 16.



Based on notes from Larry Newman and the Ottawa Citizen.

Strange sights and eerie lights in the park

John Cockburn

Two days after Halloween, Strathcona Park was visited by strange sights and eerie lights. The occasion was the production of a public service commercial for the Union of Solicitor General Employees, who wanted to advertise their commitment to "Keeping Canadians Safe".

The union, about 16,000 strong, represents parole and program officers, tradespeople, frontline staff and teachers who work in the federal prison system. They also support the day-to-day operations of hundreds of RCMP detachments and the administration of 17 federally mandated Courts, Boards, Commissions and Tribunals.

The commercial, produced by the Toronto office of the public relations firm

Taxi, seeks to make a link between modern lighting and bringing to light work that the union members perform. The lighting system was designed and produced by Glitch Inc., an Ottawa firm that provides special effects for the film industry and utilizes efficient LED light sources and custom-designed motion detection controls.

To see the a clip of the advertisement featuring Strathcona Park, go to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=raV2l0mLskM

All in all, the event had little downside for the neighbourhood and although the lighting was removed that night it did raise the question about efficient and attractive outdoor lighting in Sandy Hill. The city will continue to implement its street- and area-lighting conversions in the upcoming year or so and lots can be done to create an effective, efficient and attractive lightscape.



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

Solid Waste Issues in Sandy Hill and Budget News

We've been working with Legal, Solid Waste and By-Law Services to address different waste-related and property maintenance issues that we have heard and seen, specifically in Sandy Hill.

Concerns about the storage of recycling bins and the accumulation of garbage near those receptacles add to the frustration, and demoralize the efforts of staff and the community. Based on the current property maintenance bylaw, garbage bins must be stored at the rear of a property, or in a side yard if there is inadequate space in the rear yard.

This bylaw does not apply to recycling bins. We want to amend this bylaw to ensure that recycling bins are held to the same rules as garbage bins, with the goal of keeping our community clean and tidy.

Secondly, we are working on improved enforcement related to improper placement of bins. Currently, if a waste bin is put out on the wrong day and left there, the property owner is notified and asked to remove it, but the compliance period for action is 13 days. That is unreasonable to us and undermines community efforts. This timeline is too long to be an effective deterrent. We want to reduce the compliance period to 48 hours. This is one of the key changes that we are proposing, along with many other meaningful amendments.

Improved property maintenance standards will make the Sandy Hill community an even more welcoming place for all residents and will support residents who are making an effort to report problematic addresses.

In budget news: we have some exciting investments coming in 2017. The new EquiPass will make public transit more affordable for our lower-income residents. It will be available as of April 1, 2017 at a cost of \$57.

A city-wide investment of \$1.75 million will increase bus service for routes where ridership is already very high. Moreover, an investment of \$38 million will go towards the expansion of the Ottawa Art Gallery and the redevelopment of Arts Court.

The draft budget also includes \$610 000 in new base funding for crucial community social programs to deal with growing needs and pressures.

Furthermore, we will also be significantly expanding the city's cycling network and protecting the urban tree canopy across the city. For a full list of important investments and to learn more about the draft budget please visit www.ottawa.ca/budget2017.

Since this will be our last article of 2016, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our residents Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. Here's to another great year.

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Wishing you and yours a happy and healthy year to come. Thank you kindly for all your business and referrals again during 2016. I look forward to working together in the years to come.

Meilleurs vœux de bonheur et de santé à vous et aux vôtres pour l'année prochaine.

Je vous remercie d'avoir fait affaire avec moi et de m'avoir recommandé vos proches au cours de l'année 2016.

J'espère avoir le plaisir de travailler avec vous dans les années à venir.



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Natalie Belovic

Ontario Municipal Board, continued from page 1

Illustration Claire MacDonald



In November 2016, Action Sandy Hill undertook a costly and time-consuming appeal to the OMB of a Richcraft building proposed for Cobourg and Rideau, which would overlook this intersection at Besserer and Augusta. The photo collage by Claire MacDonald appeared in the binder of materials submitted by ASH.

The time, effort, and money spent by ASH to mount the current appeal to the OMB was prodigious and the work was all done by volunteers. The chronology was: research and meet to determine whether and how to pursue this case:

- 1) prepare and make a presentation to the City Planning Committee,
- 2) search for an experienced lawyer and urban planner who would take their case (If planners had worked for the developer in question, they wouldn't take the case. That narrowed the field significantly.)
- 3) raise the money
- 4) study the developer's application (a foot-high stack of folded charts, maps, drawings, etc.)
- 5) prepare the approach which would best counter the developer's proposal
- 6) brief the planner and lawyer
- 7) attend the hearing and present our case.

For this appeal, ASH launched a successful fundraising campaign in Sandy Hill that collected more than \$20,000. The total bill is expected to be \$30,000; \$10,000 will come from the ASH treasury. Nine volunteers worked on this OMB project. A total of more than 350 volunteer hours were spent; that's nearly nine weeks.

At the hearing, the "other side" (Richcraft and the City) appeared to have brought 17 people: four lawyers, five planners, two heritage specialists, one architect, plus others who were not identified. ASH had one lawyer, one planner, one community representative (Chad Rollins, ASH president), and two volunteers to assist as needed. Rather unbalanced, I thought.

This imbalance of power is not an exception. Remember the Viner Assets, Inc. application to erect a nine-storey student dormitory at Laurier and Friel? ASH had established interest in the case by presenting its argument against the development to the City Planning Committee and was then eligible to be a participant at the 2013 OMB hearing. ASH hired a lawyer especially to cross-examine the witnesses at that hearing where Viner, the developer, appealed the City's ruling against their application. This cost Sandy Hill residents and ASH \$20,000. Six volunteers spent about 220 hours preparing for and attending the hearing. As I men-

tioned, Mr. Makuch denied the City's (and ASH's) appeal.

And that's not all. In 2004, Richcraft proposed a similar development on essentially the same property on Rideau Street. ASH appealed the City's decision to the OMB and Mr. Makuch. We lost. The zoning at that time restricted height to six storeys and Richcraft came out of the hearing with nine storeys. That one cost Sandy Hill residents "only" \$10,000.

There have been other contentious developments in Sandy Hill in the last 12 years. In one of them, neighbours appealed to the OMB and ended up in mediation after raising and spending \$20,000 and volunteering many hours in preparation. ASH would also have pursued many of the other undesirable developments but the cost is high and the pool of lawyers and planners is small in Ottawa. Most of them depend on developers for the bulk of their revenue and are loath to jeopardize that source of income.

This situation cannot help but increase student population in Sandy Hill and, in consequence, tends to drive residents to leave as student population increases. That exodus means there are more houses on the market and developers have typically been able to outbid families for these houses. This increases student housing and creates a positive feedback loop that acts to encourage families to leave and decrease our store of volunteers needed to mount effective opposition to unwelcome development.

The moral of the story is that the process isn't fair. The OMB is a heavy hand over the head of communities like ours and over the City as well. Under the shadow of that hand, neither the City nor ASH is free to create the building environment that we want. Recently, the Ontario government announced an effort to limit the powers of the OMB and require it to be more sensitive to community needs. This is an opportunity for all of us to urge the Province to give the cities more authority over urban planning. The Province needs to recognize that it costs far too much in time, effort and cash for communities to defend themselves at the OMB against developers who do not respect the character of our neighbourhoods. Please provide feedback to the Province at:

OMBReview@ontario.ca. The deadline for providing feedback is Dec. 19, 2016.

Our new MLA

Nathalie Des Rosiers to succeed Madeleine Meilleur at Queen's Park

Bob Meldrum

On Thursday, November 17 a by-election in Ottawa-Vanier returned another Liberal to the Provincial Legislature. Nathalie Des Rosiers, a lawyer and Law Dean at University of Ottawa, became the new MPP for Ottawa-Vanier, receiving 14,678 votes. This support was much more than her nearest rival, Conservative André Marin, whose count was only 9,023. The new Liberal MPP in fact had more votes than



Photo QP Briefing

Nathalie Des Rosiers

the total of her three rivals from the other mainstream parties Conservative, NDP and Green parties

The by-election was interesting because there were eleven candidates on the ballot, including Elizabeth de Viel Castel of the "Stop the New Sex-Ed Agenda" party. What does it say to the Liberal government that she came fifth with 399 votes?



Photo Kathleen Kelly

Ready to greet voters at the Sandy Hill advance poll were officials (l-r) Clotilde Kerklikian, Nicole Campbell, Marina Moraitis, Ghislain Duguay.



Photo Kathleen Kelly

Inaugural allsaints Book Fair raised funds for Prime Ministers' Row

A total of \$900 was raised by a team of neighbourhood volunteers recruited by Jane McNamara. Proceeds from the Nov. 19 sale went to the still-new Prime Ministers' Row initiative, supporting its innovative take on our local heritage. People donated thousands of books and many shoppers (some four-legged) came out to snap up bargains in new or nearly new condition. The Book Fair committee thanks all who made donations, helped sort and sell — and snapped up paperback (or hardcover) treasures.

Photos— Above: Doug and Mary Hardwick with Zak check out the stock. Left: Jane McNamara, the genius behind the sale — herself an avid reader.



Photo Kathleen Kelly



Visit the café at allsaints and you'll pass the entrance to Bate Hall — modest yet stately.

Pen and ink drawing by Stewart St. resident, artist Phil Caron

CARON

Photo Larry Newman



Mathieu Fleury prononce son rapport de novembre, de la réunion mensuelle d'Action Côte-de-Sable.

Cela fait six ans que Mathieu Fleury est notre conseiller municipal

François Bregha

Monsieur Fleury aime son travail à la Ville et il entend demeurer notre conseiller malgré les occasions politiques qui se sont présentées récemment dans Ottawa-Vanier tant au niveau provincial que fédéral. Non seulement se sent-il ancré ici mais il veut aussi profiter « d'une énergie valorisante » dans la communauté pour mener à bien plusieurs projets. Pour l'ensemble du quartier, ceux-ci incluent le lancement de l'évaluation environnementale du tunnel pour retirer les gros camions du centre-ville, la revitalisation du Marché By et le parachèvement de la Cour des arts et du train léger. Dans la Côte-de-Sable, M. Fleury est particulièrement satisfait de la passerelle Adàwe enjambant la rivière Rideau, dont la fréquentation un an après son ouverture approche déjà 750,000 passages.

Ceci dit, M. Fleury reconnaît que plusieurs défis de taille demeurent. Il se dit avoir été frappé à son arrivée à la Ville par la lenteur de l'appareil gouvernemental, tant municipal que provincial, à réagir aux changements qui se produisaient dans la Côte-de-Sable. Même s'il est satisfait dans l'ensemble de la série de mesures prises par la Ville pour mieux gérer la construction d'immeubles d'habitation mal adaptés au voisinage et les nuisances occasionnées par le bruit et les ordures, il reconnaît que leur mise en œuvre s'avère parfois difficile.

M. Fleury demeure préoccupé par la construction de plusieurs immeubles qui fonctionnent essentiellement comme maisons de chambre et qui ne sont destinés qu'à des étudiants. Non seulement que les conditions de vie et de sécurité dans ces bâtiments laissent parfois à désirer, mais il sera difficile de les ré-adapter à d'autres segments de la population, le cas échéant. M. Fleury note que le nombre d'inscriptions à l'Université a plafonné et que l'offre du logement étudiant pourrait bientôt dépasser la demande. Il espère que les nouvelles mesures entreprises par la Ville protégeront le quartier de la construction éventuelle d'immeubles mal adaptés au caractère de nos rues. Il s'agit notamment de la nouvelle exigence de la Ville d'un plan d'implantation pour tout nouveau bâtiment dans la Côte-de-Sable, ainsi que des mesures qui vont résulter de l'étude en cours sur le zonage.

Il reste aussi des améliorations à faire quant à la gestion des déchets puisque la réglementation actuelle ne correspond plus à la réalité des nouveaux logements. Il serait préférable d'axer la politique de collecte de déchets sur le nombre de chambres dans un bâtiment plutôt que

sur le nombre d'unités. De cette façon, le coût tomberait là où il le devrait : payé par le promoteur immobilier plutôt que par le contribuable.

Mais c'est surtout sur le côté opérationnel, c'est-à-dire sur la mise en œuvre des décisions, où M. Fleury pense qu'il faut se pencher maintenant. Par exemple, établir un nouvel axe pour cyclistes sur la rue Somerset est une chose; maintenir des normes de déneigement pour que cet axe soit utilisé l'hiver en sera une autre. Moderniser les procédures pour assurer une conformité plus rapide aux règlements (quelqu'un qui laisse traîner des ordures ne devrait pas disposer de 13 jours pour remédier à la situation); renverser le roulement des agents municipaux affectés au règlement sur le bruit, ce qui entrave son application cohérente; resserrer le code du bâtiment (ce que seul la province peut faire) pour mieux encadrer la construction de petits immeubles d'appartements—voilà autant d'exemples d'interventions essentielles mais qui ne feront pas nécessairement la manchette des journaux.

Dans un autre ordre d'idées, M. Fleury aimerait aussi voir une programmation au Centre communautaire mieux ciblée aux besoins de la population, des améliorations au bâtiment de l'école Viscount Alexander, un plus grand rapprochement entre l'Université et la communauté afin de mieux profiter de l'expertise dont dispose l'Université et de plus grands efforts en vue d'offrir des logements à prix abordable.

L'avenir de la rue Rideau demeure un défi difficile. Ces dernières années, plusieurs commerces et bureaux ont fermé et n'ont pas été remplacés. De grands projets immobiliers ont été mis en veilleuse et l'activité stagne. La revitalisation de la rue Preston a démontré l'importance de champions locaux pour lancer les investissements. M. Fleury espère que la provocation récente de la zone d'amélioration commerciale jusqu'au pont Cummings portera fruit éventuellement.

Après plusieurs années de rattrapage dans les politiques, les procédures et les institutions, M. Fleury pense arriver enfin à rétablir un équilibre dans la Côte-de-Sable entre les résidents de longue durée et les étudiants; la protection du patrimoine et les besoins de développement; la qualité de vie et la plus grande densité. Ce parcours lent, tortueux et exigeant pour la communauté n'est pas terminé. Cependant, M. Fleury pense que des assises solides sont maintenant en place pour protéger la qualité de vie des résidents du quartier. Reste à s'assurer que la mise en œuvre des nouveaux règlements tiendra la route.

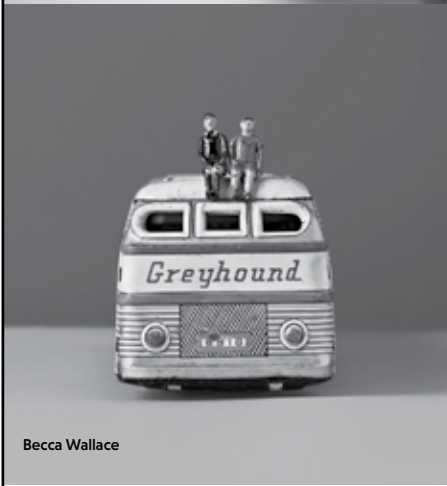
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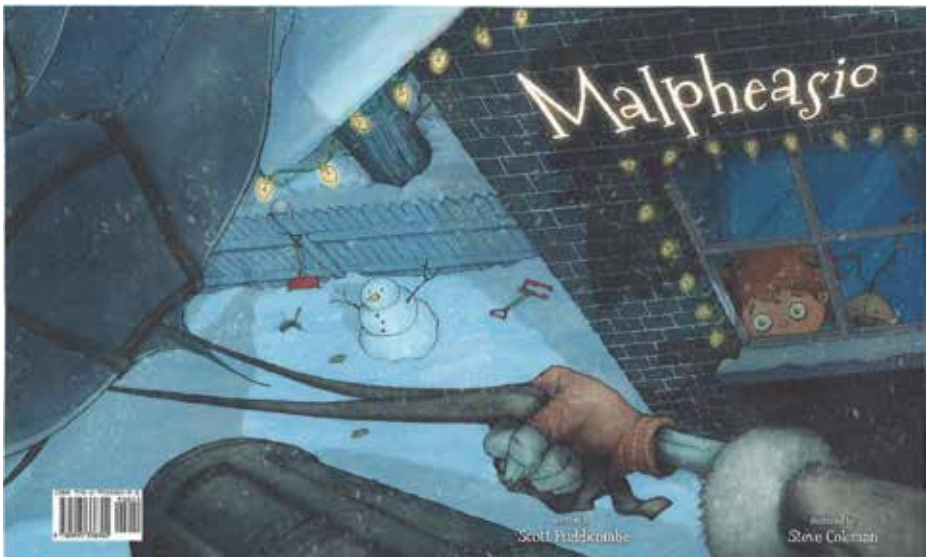
Sandy Hill Specials— New this Christmas!



Sandy Hill’s energetic philanthropist Carol Waters has a new product for sale—a gift that gives twice. Carol has made attractive cotton water bottle holders like the one pictured at left.....they hold plastic or reusable water bottles...very handy if you are trekking or cruising or touring this winter.

\$6 each

All proceeds go to: Projectchanceafrica.ca—a sewing room Carol has supported for a number of years, in Nairobi’s Mathare slum. To purchase one or more water bottle holders, contact Carol at 613 235 8461 or carolannwaters@gmail.com



Sandy Hill writer Scott Puddicombe has a new book available for sale this Christmas. He says it’s “a totally new Christmas story.” It’s a beautifully illustrated book about “Malpheasio,” a new Christmas character who has arrived in response to some of the naughty kids of today who believe they have outsmarted Santa. There is a villainous theme to this book and so the recommended reading age is 8 years and older. This is a lovely hardcover Christmas book with heavy weight satin pages and a dedication box on the inside cover. It retails for \$24.50. To find out more, visit Malpheasio.com or, if you wish buy a copy directly from the author, please send Scott a query at: scott@thesouthpole.ca.



More money than sense? Consumerism is alive and well on Rideau St.

Freezing for fashionable feet

Paula Kelsall

It’s 3:30 on a Monday afternoon, and there’s a brisk wind blowing down Rideau Street, bringing a minus 11 wind chill and keeping the clumps of snow and ice on the sidewalks in good form. In spite of the cold, a line of folding chairs is forming along the sidewalk outside the NRML store at 184 Rideau St., the first sign of a long outdoor vigil to come.

None of the chairs’ owners are sitting down. Understandably, they are seeking shelter from the wind in nearby doorways, chatting with their buddies in small groups, hands in pockets and hoods up.

Amazingly, the moment these young men are waiting for is over 42 hours away. At 10 a.m. on Wednesday morning, NRML will open its doors and begin to admit customers, one or two at a time. Their goal: the Yeezy Boost 350 v2, an athletic shoe produced by Adidas in partnership with American rapper and clothing designer Kanye West. The sneakers’ release date is announced on social media, and they will sell out almost immediately.

“They got more money than sense,” a passerby mutters to me as I take a photograph. In fact, the ordeal of waiting in line to buy limited edition shoes is a money-making venture for many. Shoes that retail for a few hundred dollars can

be found for sale on eBay the day after their release for over a thousand dollars. New releases of limited edition shoes take place at least a couple of times a month.

By noon on Wednesday there are still a few people waiting to get in to NRML. Winston, an employee of the store who is outside surveying the scene, tells me that there were at least 100 people checked in to the lineup at 8 a.m. This was an unusually large release, but nobody knows in advance exactly how many pairs will be for sale on a given morning. Winston estimates that two-thirds of the successful customers will re-sell the shoes they’ve bought. In addition, some who are looking forward to the thrill of actually wearing their special shoes will need to trade the ones they bought for a pair in their size. Winston says NRML is a favoured meeting place for people who’ve arranged to sell or trade shoes, since the store has security cameras and staff who can judge whether the shoes on offer are authentic.

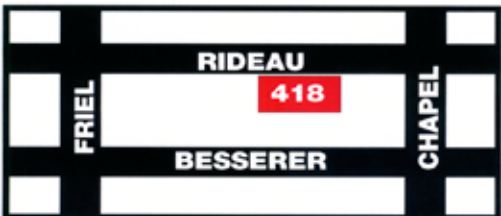
Although women sometimes turn up in search of the smaller sizes, and there was a women’s Puma shoe produced in partnership with Rihanna that attracted a lineup not too long ago, it’s mainly men’s shoes that bring out the patient, hopeful crowds. Women have known about suffering in the cause of fashionable feet for years, but it seems that American celebrities and sportswear manufacturers have finally found a way of extending this privilege to men.

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- Dec 21, 7pm - Blue Christmas Service
- Dec 24, 6:30pm - Pageant & Carols
- 10 pm - Lessons and Carols
- Dec 25, 11am - Christmas Worship

Christmas in Sandy Hill

Christmas is just around the corner. Check out these great gift ideas right here in Sandy Hill.



Yvonne Van Alphen
Photos by David Elden

Order a delicious mousse from Severine Moreau, a recent graduate from Le Cordon Bleu. The passionfruit/coconut mousse is delicious: light, fluffy and fresh. Just the right dessert for this time of year. Other flavours include chocolate and lemon, but Severine can play with flavours. Severine also makes pineapple, mango, strawberry, raspberry, caramel choux. Severine finds Christmas a magical time of year. Contact: severine.moreau@mycordonbleu.net.

Take advantage of Marilyn Whitaker's local landscape service. Spring garden clean-up, including shrub pruning, starting at \$100; summer tub set-up with flowers, herbs or other plants, starting at \$75; indoor green wall units, starting at \$750 for 28.5" x 28.5", providing home and office spaces with beautiful, year-round greenery and easy maintenance. Marilyn loves get-togethers, decorations, plants and music during this time of year. Oasescapes can be contacted by email at mjwhitaker@rogers.com or at 613-716-7437. The website is www.oasescapes.com.



Purchase a special piece of fine original Sandy Hill art from Worldview Studio. Perhaps a striking red canoe by Janet MacKay (right), or a true Canadian sugar bush painting by Mitchell Webster (above). Prices range from \$200-\$2000. Or, purchase a set of cards for \$10 as a hostess gift. Worldview Studio at 210 Blackburn Avenue is open every weekend from noon-5 p.m. until Christmas www.worldviewstudio.ca, (613-231-6314). Mitchell Webster loves all of Christmas: especially the turkey dinner and family and friends.



Dazzle someone with Eiko Emori's pate de verre one of a kind glass pieces. You won't see another green tree vase like this one (\$250). Other items include a wide range of multi-coloured glass plates (\$9), one for each member of the family, a variety of bowls, trays (\$95), and glass lava cups for that special celebratory drink. Eiko enjoys celebrating the New Year with family and taking time off. The Designer Glass Studio, located in Sandy Hill, is open by appointment, contact Eiko at: mail@designerglassstudio.ca; 613-231-2786.



Sunday Market at allsaints

This year artists and crafters are getting together at allsaints Market (located at the corner of Laurier and Blackburn) every Sunday from 10-3. If you are an artist and want to join, contact info@allsaintsottawa.ca (613-230-3050). \$25/Table, no entry fee. We decided to talk to some of the artists one Sunday afternoon and discovered an array of unique gift ideas.

Check out Private Persian Rug Gallery (see photo above). Carpets that tell a story (\$145-\$12,000), or a small carpet (\$45), 100% wool, for sitting on a chair, standing on the floor, or taking to a picnic. Daryoush Hedayati loves the happiness and new feeling that Christmas brings. Contact: www.perira.com or rug@perira.com.



Enjoy eastern Ontario scenes taken by photographer Jane Cass. Scenes captured on notecards (\$3.00 each or 4 for \$10), tiled recycled ceramic coasters (\$5 each), calendars of eastern Ontario towns (\$10) and a variety of matted photos (\$40). Jane loves the cheerfulness of Christmastime. Contact: janecassphotographs.com or jimcphotos@yahoo.ca

Take in the scent of Scentsy, an alternative to the scented candle. Instead, a variety of different warmers (\$72) to melt scents (\$6) like a very merry cranberry with a heated lightbulb. Over 90 different scents to choose from that last 80-120 hours. Also, diffusers using scented oils (\$156). Amanda Rowlings enjoys shopping at Christmas: "the decorations, the music and look but not the feel of snow." Contact: www.amandapanda-scentsy.ca or scorpio461@gmail.com.



Get warm and cozy with Florence Williams' knitted scarves (\$17-\$22), socks (\$15) and hats (\$15). She knits in a variety of chunky acrylics and is looking forward to having a quiet Christmas this year. Contact: FM.Williams@rogers.com

Let someone sparkle wearing jewelry from Asia. Long necklaces \$16 made of light plastic, not glass. Many different fashionable earrings, bracelets, and watches. Try on a magic scarf that wraps in many ways, including as a vest, \$17. Olivia Lai enjoys the happy faces at Christmas. Contact: mycloset.olivia@gmail.com or mycloset.olivia@gmail.com



Enjoy the beauty of many small outdoor oil paintings of South Ottawa. Each piece an original capturing an intimate moment in the woods (\$10-\$60). Each one its own haiku poem. John Benn, is a painter of 40 years, and paints every day outdoors. He tells me he doesn't do holidays. Instead, he loves to be amongst the trees with his paintbrush. Contact: johnbenn.com or bennncarlson@sympatico.ca.

Photo John Verbaas



This photo shows the opening in the newly moved and reconstructed curb where the water drains off the street and into the new wider green area with added plants between the curb line and the sidewalk. This configuration is on both sides of the street.

Stewart Street gets a makeover

John Verbaas

The section of Stewart Street between Friel and King Edward underwent a significant makeover this past summer. It is considered by the City to be a pilot “bio-retention” project and had been in the plans for several years. What is meant by bio-retention is rebuilding the street so that rainwater run-off is channelled into greenscaped garden areas on the edges of the road rather than

into the stormwater sewer system. The intention is to lower the burden on the wastewater treatment plant as well as return more water to the ground. Stewart Street was a win-win-win as a candidate for this pilot. In addition to the trial of this new way to manage stormwater, something needed to be done about the large pools of water that puddled on the road after rainfalls. Furthermore, this section of Stewart Street was much wider than it needed to be and so by narrowing it (by 2.2 metres) the bio-retention gardens could be added on each side of the

road, the traffic could be calmed, and better conditions could be created for the cycling lane. The City and the community will be monitoring to see how the plants the City has added in the two- metre strips on each side of the road hold up over the next few years.

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Restauration de la Maison Laurier

Un joyau du patrimoine de la Côte-de-Sable



par Michel Prévost

Cette année, le gouvernement fédéral célèbre le 175^e anniversaire de naissance de Sir Wilfrid Laurier (1841-1919), premier ministre du Canada de 1896 à 1911. Laurier est considéré comme l’un des plus grands premiers ministres du pays. Pour les Canadiens français de son époque, il constitue une figure de légende, puisqu’il s’avère le premier francophone à occuper ce poste. Par ailleurs, Ottawa lui doit une fière chandelle, puisque c’est lui qui crée en 1899 la Commission d’embellissement d’Ottawa, aujourd’hui la CCN. En fait, Laurier considère qu’à la fin du XIX^e siècle Ottawa est une ville laide, mais qu’elle possède le potentiel de devenir la Washington du Nord. Pour souligner cet anniversaire important, le gouvernement fédéral a annoncé cet automne un investissement de 542 000 \$ afin de restaurer la Maison Laurier, un site historique national du Canada au cœur de la Côte-de-Sable. Laurier habite cette maison bourgeoise avec sa femme Zoé Lafontaine, de 1897 à sa mort en 1919. Sa veuve y vit jusqu’à sa mort survenue en 1921. Sans enfants, Lady Laurier cède sa demeure à William Lyon Mackenzie King, 10^e premier ministre du Canada. Ce dernier y habite de 1923 à 1950. À sa mort, Mackenzie King donne sa résidence à la nation canadienne. Fait intéressant, des grands de ce monde y sont invités au fil des ans par Laurier et Mackenzie King, notamment le premier



Photo Kathleen Kelly

ministre du Royaume-Uni, Sir Winston Churchill et le président français, Charles de Gaulle.

Restauration de la résidence
La contribution du gouvernement canadien servira à la réparation du toit, à la remise en état du revêtement en brique, ainsi qu’à la restauration des fenêtres, des boiseries et des fioritures. Des travaux seront aussi effectués sur la grande véranda, qui avait été ajoutée par Laurier au début du XX^e siècle. On ne peut que se réjouir d’apprendre que ce joyau du patrimoine de la Côte-de-Sable et du Canada sera prochainement restauré pour les générations à venir.

Une belle demeure du XIX^e siècle
La Maison Laurier est construite en 1878 pour loger le bijoutier John Leslie. Il s’agit d’un élégant bâtiment en brique jaune de style Second-Empire. La résidence compte plusieurs attributs patrimoniaux, notamment le toit concave mansardé, la décoration soigneusement sculptée des lucarnes, les beaux jeux de briques et les fenêtres à arc.

La maison plus que centenaire possède également des boiseries d’une très grande richesse à l’intérieur et un magnifique escalier. Enfin, soulignons que l’on trouve entre ses murs quelque 10 000 artefacts et photographies anciens liés aux deux premiers ministres canadiens qui y ont habité pendant un demi-siècle. Ces objets du passé s’avèrent d’une valeur inestimable. Rappelons que le Lieu historique national de la Maison-Laurier situé au 35, avenue Laurier Est, est ouvert au grand public. Il y a toutefois des frais d’entrée. Voir : <http://www.pc.gc.ca/fra/lhn-nhs/on/laurier/index.aspx>, tél. : 613- 992-8142.

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Sir Charles Tupper

François Bregha

In support of the initiative to designate Laurier Ave 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 will publish a series of short capsules on several of our former distinguished neighbours. This fifth one features Canada’s sixth prime minister, Sir Charles Tupper.

Tupper lived at 274 Daly Ave. between 1870 and 1874. A former premier of Nova Scotia and a Father of Confederation, Tupper held several important portfolios in Sir John A. Macdonald’s cabinets and was appointed High Commissioner to Great Britain. He became Canada’s sixth prime minister in 1896 at the age of 75 but governed only 10 weeks before Laurier defeated the Conservatives in a general election the same year. Tupper’s Conservatives won the popular vote but lost the seat count in the House of Commons.

Tupper was the only Father of Confederation with a university education. He was the first president of the Canadian Medical Association and never ceased practicing his profession while a politician. He even kept a medical bag under his front-bench seat in the House of Commons. He had a good reputation as a physician and earned as much income as a doctor as he did as a cabinet minister.

Tupper always enjoyed the company of women (in his younger days, he had been known as the “ram of Cumberland”) and he liked to flirt. When he lived on Daly Avenue, he would make a one-block detour on his way to the office to “surprise” Mme Desbarats, the wife of the Queen’s Printer, while she was out watering her flower garden. This happened so often that the neighbours feared that the flow-

ers on that corner would suffer from over-watering.

Tupper’s political influence derived from being Macdonald’s trusted confidant and chief political enforcer. Aggressive and ruthless in debate, his debating style attracted several colourful contemporary descriptions, including that: “He always spoke from a full chest and with a splendid volume of voice and wrestled with his subject as a strong man would wrestle in an amphitheatre.”

He died in 1915, the last Father of Confederation to die.

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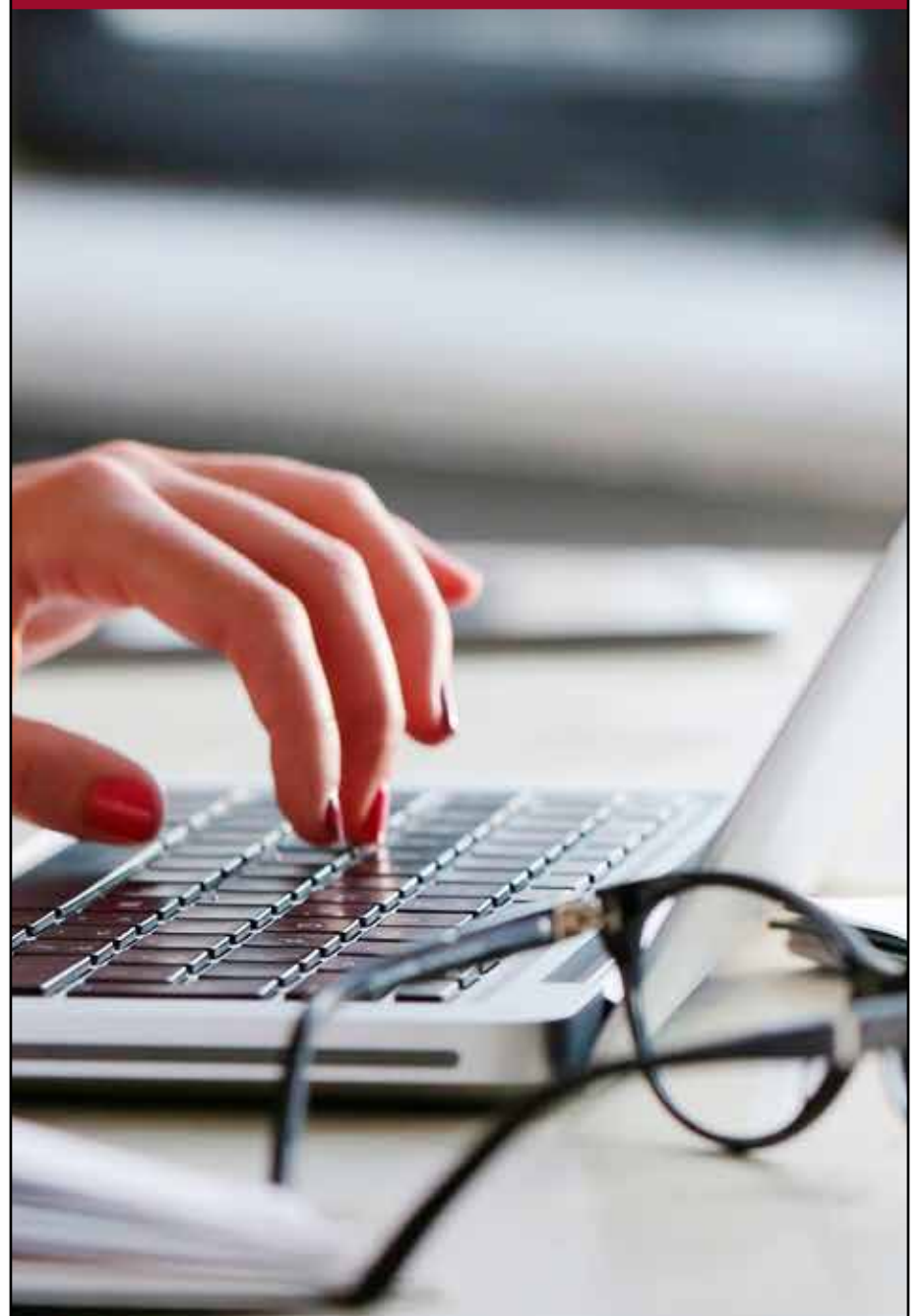
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Photo Dodi Newman

Comfort and joy

Dodi Newman

At this dark and cold time of year, what could be more comforting than potatoes? Beyond offering comfort, the mellow consistency, subtle flavour, and astonishing versatility of potatoes are a joy for every cook and make them an indispensable item in your larder. A comprehensive guide to potato cookery is published by the New York Times: google “nytimes/guides/how to make potatoes” and you will find a plethora of information and excellent recipes. Helpful information and useful tips regarding selection, storage and nutrition can also be found by googling “eat right ontario all about potatoes”. Yukon Gold and any red-skinned potato are great, all-purpose potatoes. Tip: do not spare butter or heavy cream; they take potatoes from boring to superb. Here is a quick run-down of three of my favourites.

Mashed potatoes with kale for four: Boil 4 medium potatoes, cut in half, until done. Meanwhile, in a separate pot, cook 1 bunch fresh kale, stems removed, in a bit of water for about 10 minutes. Drain, squeeze out the liquid and chop very finely. Drain the potatoes, mash them with enough heavy cream to get the consistency you prefer, mix in the chopped kale, a little salt and lots of freshly ground black pepper, heat through over medium heat, and serve. Wonderful with pork of any kind!

Salmon cakes: Knead together 1 cup cooked salmon, 1 cup cold, coarsely mashed potatoes, 3 to 5 thinly sliced scallions, 1 egg, a few dashes of Tabasco sauce, some grated nutmeg, and salt and pepper to taste. Form into 3-inch patties and fry over medium high heat in a generous amount of canola oil, or canola oil and butter, until dark golden brown. Leftovers freeze very well.

Scalloped potatoes with ham: Peel 4 medium potatoes and cut them into thin slices. In a casserole, place a layer of half the potatoes, cover that with a layer of 1 to 1 1/2 cups cooked ham, cut into 1/2-inch cubes, cover that with 1 peeled, very thinly sliced onion, layer the remaining potatoes on top. Pour in enough chicken broth (preferably homemade), whole milk or half and half so you can just see it as you peer down into the casserole. Cover all with 1 1/2 cups of shredded Swiss or old cheddar cheese and bake in the oven, preheated to 375°, for 1 hour or until done.

The Internet of Things



Ron Hodgson

Most (perhaps all) homes today contain some automated devices. The devices could be as simple as a coffee maker or as complex as a home audio and video system. Think about all the items you have that help you to manage your home and your personal activity. Light timers, thermostats, digital clocks, PVRs, garage door openers, door and room cameras, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, basement flood alarms, are only some of the possible things you use for control.

For example, many home owners use timers on their lights, so that they turn on and off to make it look as if someone’s at home, to help deter break-ins. Suppose that instead of requiring a separate timer for each light you could remotely control the lights using a switch wirelessly connected to a smartphone. Using a control app, each light could be set and changed as often as you liked.

Another example is the thermostat controlling the temperature of your house. Wall-mounted digital devices are available at low cost or even free from your local energy provider. This is a real money saver if used effectively since you can pre-set the temperature level in your house to match your habits 24/7. With a smart thermostat you’d be able to link with it remotely to adjust to any unexpected changes in your schedule.

Most devices can be controlled in a similar way using smart technology. The end objective of Home Automation is to integrate and coordinate all these devices so that they can be controlled from a central point whether you’re at home or not. Some call it “The Internet of Things.”

Although the concept of Home Automation has been around for a few years it’s only recently that it has started to look practical and economical. Smart phones and tablet devices along with their associated apps are the primary catalyst.

This is an area that information age hi-tech companies find very interesting. They see huge potential in developing technology systems that will enable and control suites of remote devices. Possibly one of the best uses for this technology will be its application in the homes of elderly adults or people with disabilities to help them to maintain their independence



and security and to reduce their demands on caregivers. I’m thinking here of emergency assistance systems, push button communications, automated timers, and alerts.

Currently the major players in this field are Apple, Amazon, and Google. Apple calls its suite of tools the Apple Home Kit. Using an IOS app in a device such as an iPhone or an iPad it is possible to remotely control smart accessories using standard data link and wireless protocols.

Amazon sells a device called the Echo, a vertical cylinder which looks a lot like a Bluetooth speaker but which has an ability to control other devices and will react to voice commands. As with Apple the controlled devices use standard wireless protocols plus their own proprietary connection specifications.

Google’s entry into Home Automation is called “Google Home.” The interface is a small controller/speaker that looks a bit like a room deodorizer. It’s similar to the Echo, voice controlled like the Amazon device, and currently focussed on music and entertainment delivery. Other tasks are still in the works.

A few things stand out to me in this rough comparison. First, it’s early days so we should expect that with competition and the flattening of the learning curve prices will drop. It might be wise to enter the Internet of Things slowly as the technology evolves over the next two or three years.

Secondly, the central control devices tend to support families of products. By this I mean if you’re using mainly Google products like Gmail and Android, for example, you’re probably better off sticking with the Google family. Same for the Apple system; if that’s what you’re used to then it’s probably going to be easier to stick with it.

Thirdly, there’s a need to understand the security implications of setting up your house with such an important digital entry point. Home Automation will definitely capture data about your house and habits that you will want to keep private. This may be the subject of a future column but for now just ensure that your local WiFi network is well protected with a firewall and strong passwords.

You can find out more, of course, by doing a quick web search on these products. Good luck in teaching your home new tricks and maybe raising its I.Q.

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Curved doorway caps are surprisingly abundant in Sandy Hill. This is one of my favourites.

WILBROD STREET

Illustration Phil Caron

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Christmas Story & Eucharist

December 24 at 9pm
Candlelight Eucharist

Christmas Day
December 25 at 10am
Holy Eucharist & Carols

St. Albans Church
454 King Edward at Daly
613-236-0342
info@stalbanschurch.ca
stalbanschurch.ca



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

Portuguese Bakery, 48 Nelson St. The veteran bakery on Nelson Street has been shaking things up lately. They've moved their entrance to the south end of the store, and now have a lunch counter featuring middle eastern specialties with a Syrian twist at the other end. Falafels are freshly fried and presented in delicious sandwiches rolled up in the large flatbread called markouk, which crisps up beautifully on the grill. You can also expect to find takeout containers of baba ganouj and eggplant salad nestled among the Portuguese natas and cream pastries. Lunch is served from 1:00-6:00 on weekdays (the cook is in school in the mornings) and from 11:00-6:00 on weekends. If it's bread and those delicious Portuguese buns you're after, the bakery is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. most days; closing at 5 on Monday and Saturday and opening only at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays (when the lunch counter is closed).



Photo P. Kelsall

Mohammed is the new Syrian falafel cook at the Portuguese Bakery on Nelson.

3Nineteen, 319 Rideau St. The latest incarnation of the restaurant in the Days Inn at Rideau and King Edward has a Ukrainian theme running through its menu. Look for perogies, cabbage rolls and chicken Kiev alongside more predictable selections for all times of the day, such as Eggs Benedict, burgers and lasagna. Deep fried zucchini are enormous wedges with a light, crisp batter, and the borscht is savoury and comforting. Service is efficient and friendly. The restaurant is open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday, and 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday and Monday.



Erin at her new location....the Urban Beat in the health centre on Nelson at Rideau.



Urban Beat Tea House and Cafe, 221 Nelson St. Folks who've been pining for T.A.N. coffee ever since the shop at Wilbrod and Friel closed will be glad to know that their favourite beverages are now available once more in a cheerful kiosk at the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre. There are T.A.N. beans for sale, along with all your caffeinated favourites and assorted pastries, including tasty banana and blueberry muffins made at St. Joe's kitchen. Decaf fans are urged to try the dark roast for a delicious lower-caffeine pick-me-up. Along with bringing joy to the hearts of staff and patients at the clinic, Erin is enjoying visits from many of her old regular customers as they drop in for coffee and goodies on their way to work and errands. Look for an Urban Beat patio in the summer; in the meantime you can take out, or enjoy your treat at one of the little red tables in the clinic lobby on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Meanwhile, at the former T.A.N. premises there are promising signs of a new coffee shop to come. **Happy Goat**, an Ottawa-based coffee roasting company, plans to open a shop at **317 Wilbrod** in mid-December or early January.



Photo P. Kelsall

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NEIGHBOURHOOD BULLETIN BOARD

Historic photo sought: Looking for a picture of the house, now demolished, next door to Laurier House, 345 Laurier Ave. East, as it was circa 1942. If you have one please contact me at diana.pepallottawa@gmail.com.

Dec. 16 The 6th Annual Christmas Gospel Celebration, with Rev. Ernie Cox and band, the London Trio Plus and guest soloists. McPhail Baptist Church, 249 Bronson Ave. at Lisgar, two nights, December 16, 17 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: erniecox.com

Seeking a rink coordinator for our community rink! It could be one or two people who organize volunteers and pay teenage monitors, or one or two people who undertake the duties themselves and receive the remuneration for the 8 weeks of the contract ... or something in between! Interested parties should email info@ash-acsc.ca as soon as possible.

Exhibit of drawings and paintings by Ian Murphy and Molly Teitelbaum at The Green Door Vegetarian Restaurant, till December 24. Fantastic food now coupled with interesting art. Feed your body and your soul! Molly went on to Parsons School of Design in NYC and Ian

RIDEAU BRANCH LIBRARY

377 Rideau Street

December 2016 - January 2017

Adult programs / Programmes pour adultes

Pen and Paper Writer's Circle
Every Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m., starting January 3.

Morning Book Club Monthly on the third Thursday (except December) at 10:15 a.m.
Jan. 19 – *The Reinvention of Love* by Helen Humphreys

Evening Book Club Monthly on Monday evenings at 7 p.m.

Jan. 9 – *Stoner* by John Williams

Groupe de lecture Mille-Feuilles, Certains mercredis à 18 h 45

11 janv. – *Les couleurs de l'espoir* de Julie Kibler

Children's programs Programmes pour enfants

Family storytime / Contes en famille
Tuesdays at 10:30; From Jan. 10 to Feb. 14

Les mardis à 10 h 30 du 10 janv. au 14 fev.

(raised in Sandy Hill) has a degree in Electrical Engineering. Ian's website: ianmurph.com --- Molly's website: mollyteitelbaum.com

Struggling with healthy eating? Ready to make a change? Learn about fiber, healthy fats, label reading, emotional eating. Weekly check-in for the small changes you choose to work on. This 6-week free program will be offered on Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m. at the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre, 221 Nelson St. starting February 1. For more information or to register please phone Olly at 613-244-2792.

St Paul's-Eastern United Church programs (see also ad page 15). include Tsegawit Church: Sun. 2:30-7:15 p.m.; Fri. 6-9 p.m.; AA Meeting: Sun. 7:30 p.m.; Aboriginal Youth Beading & Craft Circle: Mon. 5-8:30 p.m.; Odawa Food Bank: Tues. and Thurs.; Syrian Association: Wed. 7-8:30 p.m.; Odawa 510 Drop-in Thurs. 7 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tango Dance classes: Thursdays 5:30-7:30 p.m. New members welcome.

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9:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday / samedi
9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

News from Viscount Alexander School



Making sure the workers get it right as work begins in the Viscount schoolyard.

Michael Barnes

Cross-country running had a great season. The day may have been damp, but the cross-country spirits were electric. At the annual cross-country meet our students showed great sportsmanship and perseverance, running in rain and slippery conditions. Many students achieved personal best times. Congratulations to the entire team for a great season! Thank you to our coaches, Mme Deena, M. LeMonnier, Mrs. Sorensen, and Ms. Reavie. A huge thank you to our parent volunteers for coming out to weekly practices and cheering us on at the final meet.

Keeping active in the school yard. Students have enthusiastically welcomed some new additions to our schoolyard. In October a new basketball court was installed with new posts and hoops. As well, tetherball was introduced, much to the delight of both primary and junior students. For those students looking for a partner or partners with whom to play less formal or more creative games, there is now a Buddy Bench where they can gather to find playmates. These new activities are contributing to an increase in physical activity, social interaction and FUN! The funding for our schoolyard resources was a joint effort, shared by our School Council, the Ottawa Carleton District School Board and the City of Ottawa. Judging by the overwhelming number of participants, our new additions are being appreciated and enjoyed by most, if not all, of our school population and the community at large.

Le Café des Lumières s'installe à l'ancienne église au coin de Chapel et Laurier — allsaints

Ce concept innovateur et les activités qui en découlent ont pignon sur rue dans le quartier Côte-de-Sable depuis plus de 3 ans.

Sorte de laboratoire des idées, cette formule dynamique, qui a d'ailleurs essaimé à Vanier, invite les personnes qui y participent à faire des découvertes sur plusieurs plans et à échanger en français.

Les rencontres hebdomadaires auront lieu dans The Guild Room—un café situé à l'intérieur de l'église patrimoniale—le jeudi, de 19 h à 20 h 30 à compter du 12 janvier 2017.

La présence de personnes-ressources donnera un cachet spécial à ces soirées à la fois enrichissantes et amusantes.

Thème pour le mois de janvier :

L'appel du Nord

Boissons et repas légers en vente sur place. Stationnement gratuit dans l'espace réservé sur Chapel et dans les rues avoisinantes.

Pour plus de renseignements :
Louise Renaud-George
613-749-6466

Fundraising starts for a new Kindergarten play structure

The old play structure in the kindergarten playground was removed over the summer after many years of use and before it became a safety issue. Sadly, play structures that meet the requirements of the OCDSB are very expensive and the school board can't fund them at the drop of a hat. So the School Council has launched a fundraising drive to buy an accessible structure that our youngest students can enjoy.

Anyone wishing to support this campaign may write a cheque payable to Viscount Alexander Public School and either drop it off at the main office, or mail it to the school: Viscount Alexander PS, 55 Mann Ave., Ottawa, ON K1N 6Y7

As a registered charitable organization, the OCDSB can issue tax receipts to individuals and businesses that make a financial donation or donate goods (gifts-in-kind), to our schools. The minimum donation for which a receipt is issued is \$25. Under CRA regulations, receipts can only be issued to the name and address appearing on the cheque.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

WE Day hears the PM

On November 9, 17 Viscount students and 3 adults travelled to WE Day at the Canadian Tire Centre. They heard Prime Minister Justin Trudeau address some 16,000 young people, saying, "I'm honoured to return to the WE Day stage, and speak to so many ambitious, bright young minds. Young Canadians are the most educated, most connected, and most diverse generation of youth that this country has ever seen, and they are shaping our communities in ways that couldn't have been imagined even 20 years ago. I'm here today to let students know that, no matter one's age, we all have a responsibility to take a positive role in shaping the future of Canada and the world. As we count down to our country's 150th anniversary, and look forward to the next 150 years, I know we're in good hands."

Other inspirational speakers and well-known entertainers made for a memorable day. Having spoken to WE Day participants over several years I can say that it provides a great opportunity for young people to come together and get involved in changing the world for the better. In the 2015/2016 school year it was reported that some 2,400 schools and groups across Ontario volunteered almost 2 million hours and raised nearly \$5 million in support of global issues and local causes including Fort McMurray wildfire relief, the welcoming and inclusion of Syrian refugees, reconciliation efforts and bringing awareness to mental health issues.

Haunted portables appear at Viscount!

Our Halloween activities during the week of October 28th were a blast with students coming to school in their costumes. Thanks to Mrs. Fulford and her grade 5/6 class for organizing two haunted portables, as well as all of our staff for creating awesome activities with pumpkins, artwork, and math! Classes signed up to travel through these creations with options of lights on or dimmed.

Let's talk real estate

Lynda Cox



I am sure many of you saw and heard the CBC Marketplace report regarding a few realtors in Toronto who violated their code of ethics and gave insider information to their buyers in a multiple offer situation. Here in Ottawa, realtors were shocked and embarrassed by this revelation. We have a very strict Code of Ethics and I hope that had the hidden cameras been used in Ottawa the result would have been very different.

Multiple offers present an exciting challenge and all buyers involved must be given an equal opportunity to be successful. It is a "blind auction" with offer contents only revealed to the seller and his/her listing agent. Buyers are only to be told the number of offers on the table. That's it, that's all.

So how does it work?

Sometimes the listing agent will publish a day for offers to be presented. On MLS you will see "Offers happily considered on March 11," for example. This strategy is often used when the market is very active and the list price chosen is on the more aggressive side. By the time March 11 arrives, the listing agent might have a good idea how much interest there is and have already fielded calls from agents asking about the number of offers. Once an offer has been given to the listing agent, all other interested parties are alerted to the fact that there is an offer on the table.

In some cases, a second offer from another buyer may be submitted for consideration. The first buyer is then alerted to the fact that they are now in a competitive situation. Buyers will often choose to re-submit their offer, changing the price and other elements to reflect their best offer.

Less regularly, a third offer comes in and once again all agents are alerted, giving their buyers the opportunity to resubmit their offer again knowing that they are now competing with not only one but two other offers. All contents of each offer are confidential between the buyer and seller. No buyer should know the contents of any offer, except their own.

In Sandy Hill a home recently sold for over \$100,000 above its list price, due to a multiple offer scenario. In that case, offer time was announced as 7 p.m. on a particular date. Agents and their buyers at-

tended the presentation in person. Agents and their clients would be kept informed as to how many offers were being presented. The listing agent is required to fill out a form stating how many offers have been presented and/or sent in by email or fax. It is a highly charged situation and must be handled with the greatest of care and ethical responsibility. The agent knows the rules of the game and must follow them to the letter. No buyer is ever privy to the contents of other offers.

This is where the unethical practices were uncovered in Toronto. A few agents were discovered guiding their own buyers, giving them clues as to how much the other offers were so they could resubmit and have the winning bid.

Let's review

- The listing agent receives more than one offer on the seller's property.
- All agents and their clients must be kept informed as to how many offers there are in total. The playing field is fair. It is a blind auction and one buyer will come out on top.
- All the offers are presented to the seller.
- Only one offer can be accepted.
- Offers are accepted and/or rejected based on factors such as price, closing date, number of conditions, etc.
- All buyers must be given the same opportunity. No buyer is ever allowed to know the contents of another offer. Only the seller and the listing agent are privy to that information. It can never be shared.

Sandy Hill statistics: overall 2016

Residential

At present there are 22 active listings. Year-to-date there have been 68 sold listings. Days on market ranged from 5 days to 1266 days

Condominium

At present there are 47 active listings and 70 sold listings. Days on market range from 16 days to 803 days

Multiple Offers

Total 3 – selling for \$11,000 over asking, \$21,000 over asking and \$113,000 over asking.

Who says our neighbourhood isn't hot? Happy holidays.



St Paul's-Eastern United Church welcomes you to services & events

Advent / Christmas Services

Sun. Dec. 11 - Third Sunday of Advent, Christmas Cantata, 10:30 am

Sat. Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve (Communion), 7:00 pm

Sun. Dec. 25 - Christmas Day, 10:30 am, followed by brunch

Sun. Jan. 1 - New Year's Day, 10:30 am

Regular Sunday morning services from 10:30 am.

Parking and Sunday School available. Wheelchair accessible.

Contemplative services: 6:30 pm monthly every first Sunday evening. Call the church to confirm.

Men's Breakfast: 3rd Sundays

Bible Study: Wednesdays 10:30 am to noon. All are welcome.

Choir: Thursdays at 7:30 pm. New singers welcome.

The Sandy Hill Seniors' Network: Monthly lunch and program. From January on, 1st Wednesdays in church hall; lunches free though donations appreciated. Also, tea and conversation every Tuesday at Rideau Branch Library, 2:00-3:00 pm (Jan. 3 only at the church). Info: helengsmith@bell.net.

Odawa program and special events: Odawa Native Friendship Centre organizes programs and operates a food cupboard. See www.odawa.on.ca

Afternoon at the Cinema: Followed by dinner & discussion, schedule TBA.

Contact us for updates and details!

Address: 473 Cumberland St. (corner of Daly St.) in Sandy Hill

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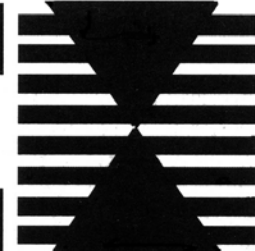
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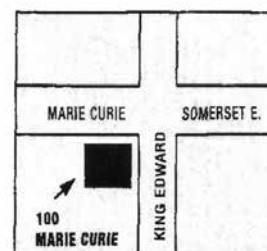
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Mon-Thurs 8:30 - 8:00

Vendredi 8h30 - 19h30
Friday 8:30 - 7:30

Samedi 10h00 - 17h00
Saturday 10:00 - 5:00

Dimanche 10h00 - 14h00
Sunday 10:00 - 2:00



www.campuspharmacy.com

December 10 is International Human Rights Day.

Please join Amnesty International's Write for Rights celebration— come write letters in support of prisoners of conscience and human rights activists around the world. This year, we'll be speaking up for a journalist in Egypt, a womens' rights activist in Iran, indigenous leaders in British Columbia, and whistleblower Edward Snowden among others. If you've never written a letter like this before, there'll be lots of friendly people on hand to offer tips, and we'll have refreshments and live music as well.

Amnesty House, 312 Laurier Ave E., Dec. 10, any time between 2:00 and 6:00 p.m.

SEASON’S GREETINGS!
from the “elves” who brought you IMAGE through 2016. Gathered at the Russell Ave. workshop for their 2016 year-end group photo are:

Front, l-r—Lynda Cox, Diane Beckett, Claire MacDonald, Jane Waterston;
2nd row—Ken Clavette, Betsy Mann, Larry Newman, Ron Hodgson, John Verbaas, François Bregha;
3rd row—Jane McNamara, Frank Heilingbrunner, Judy Rinfret, Eric Schiller;
back row—John Cockburn, Peter Rinfret, Graeme Hunter, Yvonne Van Alphen, David Elden, Bob Meldrum, and our newest recruit Phil Caron.

Here’s to 2017...5 more issues of IMAGE will come your way, with news and views, scenes and screams from the tracts of sandy land once owned by Besserer and By.

Photo Bill Blackstone



New Syrian scene at the Portuguese Bakery

A gathering was held in the Portuguese Bakery at Nelson St. (north of Clarence) on November 28, to celebrate the launch of **Syrian Kitchen**, a new venture for the bakery. The cook, recently arrived in Canada, prepares falafels (pictured at right) and other Syrian dishes which are available at the bakery and which will hopefully be appearing soon in other retail outlets around town.

— Paula Kelsall
Photos Amer Adas



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