



Photo Hilary Duff

With people isolating at home, terrific snowfalls, and constant traffic on Sandy Hill sidewalks, snow sculptures are proving to be a welcome distraction on neighbourhood strolls. Some of the most notable figures have been found in the front yard of 360 Daly Ave., where Geneviève Waring and Corbin Stewart live (pictured above). Turn to pages 12-13 for more photos and snowy sights.

City's new Secondary Plan for Sandy Hill deemed not quite ready for the oven

John Cockburn

On January 19, Action Sandy Hill (ASH) hosted a virtual meeting about the City of Ottawa's draft new Official Plan. The Official Plan will guide the development of Ottawa as it grows to an estimated population of 1.4 million in the next 25 years.

Ottawa's current Official Plan was last updated in 1979. Given the growth of our city and new planning priorities—environment, transit, social causes, health, just to name a few—it is time for a comprehensive re-examination.

Broad policy directions are provided in the Official Plan, and Secondary Plans describe how these directions are to be applied to neighbourhoods. The focus of ASH's meeting was on Sandy Hill's Secondary Plan and was based on the information provided by City officials. Generally, meeting participants and ASH felt there are very significant gaps in the City's efforts (for detailed comments from ASH see: www.ash-acsc.ca).

In spite of the significant planning staff allocated to the Official Plan project, their mandate does not allow for substantive changes to the existing Secondary Plan for Sandy Hill. Rather, their main focus was to ensure consistency of language across the many secondary plans for the city and between secondary plans and the Official Plan. This is no small matter,

but given the substantive issues that our neighbourhood faces, it would seem that more than an edit is warranted.

The plans for neighbourhoods such as Centretown are significantly more detailed than that accorded to Sandy Hill. It seemed to many at the meeting that consistency in depth of analysis should be more important than language.

Centretown's plan has benefitted from a recent Community Design Plan process, and according to Trina Cooper-Bolam, Chair of ASH's Planning Committee, ASH has demanded a similar visioning exercise should be referenced in the plan with a hard completion date attached. The plan should be considered interim until the exercise is completed.

Another significant gap was the absence of any substantive reference to the University of Ottawa's plans for the next 25 years—or even a recognition of its pervasive influence on the character of the neighbourhood.

Similarly, the Secondary Plan largely defers heritage directions to that contained in the Official Plan. Heritage considerations apply only to the area north of Osgoode Street while many feel that the entire neighbourhood should be assessed for heritage. ASH has called for the heritage rationale in the existing Secondary Plan to be reiterated in this new version.

In spite of City officials' view that no new substantive content was to be included in the plan, it envisages the introduction of

a new planning designation, "minor corridor," that will allow for more commercialization and potentially more density along Mann, Somerset, Chapel and Laurier. Increased densities are mentioned but without details, so the plan's effect on density and population for Sandy Hill remains unclear. In keeping with the focus on transportation hubs as the location for dense development, the area south of Mann including Strathcona Heights and Robinson Village has been included in the Lees Avenue Hub development area.

New content is proposed with respect to Sandy Hill West that would provide for University of Ottawa institutional development. Frequent references appear

with respect to preserving and enhancing "good housing" but provide no definition of what that is—alarming, since ASH notes that the neighbourhood has seen its fair share of "bad housing."

Public comments on the Official Plan were due on February 17. Councillor Fleury and ASH have committed to push for additional opportunity for input so that substantive public comment can be accommodated.

The Official Plan and Secondary Plans can be found at engage.ottawa.ca/the-new-official-plan/news_feed/draft-new-official-plan. Note that Sandy Hill is part of the Central and East Downtown Core Secondary Plan.



The park behind our community centre is expected to get a new name this month: Annie Pootoogook Park. Read about it on page 4.

Annie Pootoogook (1969 - 2016), Composition (Mother and Child) 2006. McMichael Canadian Art Collection, National Gallery of Canada. Reproduced with the permission of Dorset Fine Arts

IMAGE

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

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

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Website: imagesandyhill.org

Guest Editor:
Hilary Duff

Rédactrice de langue française :
Betsy Mann

Advertising: Jan Finlay, Peter Rinfret

Administration: Christine Aubry, François Bregha, Hilary Duff, David Elden, Jan Finlay, Shelley Hatt, Frank Heilingbrunner, Claire MacDonald, Betsy Mann, Jane McNamara, Jan Meldrum, Dodi Newman, Larry Newman, Judy Rinfret, Peter Rinfret, Jane Waterston, Dave Willis, Bob Whitelaw

Production: Bob Meldrum, Metroland Media (Toronto), Jane Waterston

Photographers: Christine Aubry, Hilary Duff, Kathleen Kelly, Paula Kelsall, Betsy Mann, Yvonne van Alphen, Bob Whitelaw

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Letters to the Editor of IMAGE

Neighbour counters resident's opposition to St. Paul's-Eastern respite centre

The concerns outlined last issue [Dec-Jan] by a Besserer [Street] resident, that the recently opened St. Paul's-Eastern Respite Centre on Cumberland might "damage the lives of residents, students, business owners and workers," should give Sandy Hill residents pause.

The argument that St. Paul's might bring more "emotionally fraught, drug-addicted" people into Sandy Hill, raising crime rates, vandalism, and property break-ins, harkens back to the irrational fears that were rampant during the Great Depression. Then, in Ontario's most fashionable neighbourhoods, city bylaws restricted the operation of boarding houses in private residences. As thousands of homeless men roamed the cities, concerned neighbours, worried over the influx of "strangers" renting cheap rooms in their

desirable neighbourhoods, wrote their respective Ratepayers' Associations, arguing that crime and havoc would soon follow. The concerns particular to Sandy Hill are equally about the city's homeless, and, almost a century later, amount to the same thing. Conflating the homeless or drug-addicted with criminality and violence is dangerous and inaccurate. Moreover, those hoping that our area's most vulnerable will simply build better lives ought to reflect on how it might be done. And who will stand in their corner?

Those who need respite at this incredibly difficult time need our empathy and compassion, now more than ever.

Ann Walton
Laurier Avenue East

Ducks undaunted

Here is a photo I took when we had all that snow. From Dutchy's Hole.

Yvonne van Alphen
Robinson Ave.

Photo Yvonne van Alphen



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Consultation in the works for 2 Robinson Ave. development

Cynthia Mitchell

A group of local residents and stakeholders hoping to see community benefits from the new 2 Robinson Ave. development are making some progress towards their goal.

The community group, which includes representatives from Action Sandy Hill (ASH), the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre, Ottawa Community Housing, and Coopérative d'habitation Voisins, met virtually on January 14, with staff of Montreal-based Place Dorée Real Estate Holdings (the developer) and City of Ottawa staff. The meeting was organized and facilitated by Councillor Mathieu Fleury and featured an overview of proposed plans for the 1,600-residential-unit development. Additionally, an initial discussion was held on three areas on which the City is seeking community input: a new park, amenity space, and connections/mobility.

While the group was happy to learn of details in the new development, such as planned ground floor community and commercial space in the residential towers, along with a new municipal park at the corner of Chapel Street and Lees Avenue, concerns were raised that additional issues also need to be addressed in a holistic manner.

Susan Young, President of ASH, noted that a much broader community consultation will need to take place with the City and that the developer would need

to be open to hear feedback beyond the three identified areas. It was agreed to by all that a virtual community forum to present the development will be held in the coming months, along with a dedicated consultation for Strathcona Heights.

Gerald Dragon, a community development worker at the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre, will work with his team to develop a survey to gather feedback and insights from residents in the Strathcona Heights community. The survey is expected to be ready by late March, with the virtual community consultation to be held in April.

The core group of local residents and stakeholders look forward to hearing from all Sandy Hill residents about the community benefits they would like included in this new development. A splash pad and skating rink in the new park, or in the central courtyard? A butterfly garden and pickleball court? A certain percentage of units dedicated to affordable housing? Additional City infrastructure, services, and programs for the expected influx of new residents? As the developer recently filed their application with the City, now is the time for Sandy Hill residents to ensure this development provides benefits for our community. Your feedback will inform what the working group presents to the City and the developer, and will ultimately help shape this new development in our community.

Stay tuned to IMAGE for more information, and contact Cynthia Mitchell (cynmitch@outlook.com) if you are interested in joining the community working group.



Test your memory and IMAG(E)ination

Does this piece of art look familiar to you? Let us know and we'll give you a newsprint applause in the April issue of IMAGE.

Good luck to all with this issue's challenge (above)!

Photos Bob Whitelaw

Last issue's mystery revealed (right)

This salt and sand storage unit is located at the Hurdman Yard site of Ottawa Public Works at Robinson Avenue and Hurdman Road. A winter-relevant capture, indeed!

Congratulations to **Mona Harb** for being the first to spot this site.



Phil Caron's Portfolio: Pigeons and snowflakes



January 16, Marlborough Ave..... 21 cm of snow beat the 1904 record of 20.3 cm, according to Environment Canada.

Photo Bob Whitelaw



Le changement de nom d’un parc pour saluer une artiste communautaire de talent

Que représente un nom? On se pose souvent cette question, que ce soit pour un enfant, un animal de compagnie, une rue ou parfois même un parc.

Stéphanie Plante, une résidente du secteur Côte-de-Sable, s’est adressée à mon bureau pour demander que le parc situé derrière le Centre communautaire Côte-de-Sable soit rebaptisé parc Annie-Pootoogook. Selon cette résidente, le lien est facile à établir : l’artiste de renommée internationale a vécu dans ce secteur, mais elle est surtout parvenue à sensibiliser tant de gens qui, autrement, ne connaîtraient pas la culture inuite. Son œuvre, souvent décrite comme intègre et novatrice, s’est brusquement arrêtée avec son décès en 2016. Notre bureau a travaillé avec Stephanie Plante, avec la Galerie d’art d’Ottawa, le Centre communautaire Côte-de-Sable, l’équipe artistique de la ville, la galerie SAW et le Musée des beaux-arts du Canada pour appuyer cette nomination. Stéphanie Plante a jugé nécessaire, sa demande de changement de nom ayant été appuyée par l’association communautaire et une foule d’organisations et d’acteurs importants de la collectivité, de commémorer le legs d’Annie Pootoogook dans notre ville et dans ce quartier où elle est devenue célèbre, où elle a vécu et où elle est décédée.

Annie est née en 1969 à Cape Dorset au Nunavut. Issue d’une longue lignée d’artistes, elle a commencé à dessiner en 1997. Ses œuvres évoquent son style de vie en tant qu’artiste féminine contemporaine vivant et travaillant dans le Grand Nord canadien. Le parc situé derrière le centre communautaire est actuellement désigné comme étant le parc Côte-de-Sable, mais ne porte aucun nom officiel. Cette attribution de nom permettrait de corriger la situation. C’est avec plaisir que j’appuie la collectivité dans cette demande d’attribution de nom. Je trouve dommage que le don qu’Annie a exprimé dans ses magnifiques dessins à l’encre et au crayon de couleur, qui représentent une chronique de la vie inuite avec souvent une signification ou un commentaire plus profond de situations simples ou difficiles, ait connu une fin aussi abrupte. Espérons que nous serons nombreux à fréquenter ce parc pour nous souvenir de cette artiste et de son œuvre. La demande de changement de nom devrait être examinée lors de la prochaine réunion du Comité des services communautaires et de protection, prévue le 18 février.

mathieu.fleury@ottawa.ca / 613-580-2482
@mathieufleury / mathieufleury.ca

IMAGE’s images

Strathcona Park after the first large January snowfall.



Photo Kathleen Kelly

News Bites

Update from the January Action Sandy Hill meeting

• **Former Moondog Pub & Grill:** Smart Living has purchased and will be re-developing this Laurier Ave. E. property. Action Sandy Hill and the City are encouraging them to maintain the facade and re-install the original porch. Smart Living will be seeking a commercial tenant to lease the building post-renovation.

• **Break and enters on the rise in condo buildings.** Cst. Sebastien Lemay, the Community Police Officer for Sandy Hill and Lowertown, reported that crime is down across the board. Instances of break and enter, however, have risen in condo buildings where parcels have been stolen from mailrooms. Some identifications have been made and charges laid through video surveillance footage. According to Cst. Lemay, condo tenants should be ambassadors for their building and ensure the front door closes and locks behind them.

- with notes from Kathy Moyer and Hilary Duff

Sandy Hill Park renaming in its final steps

By the time you read this, Sandy Hill Park may have a new name. On February 18, the City will vote on renaming the space in commemoration of former Sandy Hill resident and Inuk artist Annie Pootoogook.

Both Councillor Mathieu Fleury and Stéphanie Plante, the sponsor of the name

change, are confident there will be no objections and say the park could have new signage as early as fall 2021. “I am so happy with how everything turned out,” says Plante, who led the year-long renaming effort. “Annie is incredibly famous and it’s fantastic that her family and the Inuit community in Sandy Hill will have a municipal space dedicated to her.”

Councillor Fleury is also working with the City to ensure some of Pootoogook’s pieces are displayed in the Sandy Hill Community Centre once it re-opens. It looks like the artist’s memory will live on both inside and outside of 250 Somerset St. E.!

- with notes from Stéphanie Plante

Moving forward on the Strathcona Park gazebo

Representatives from Action Sandy Hill and local architect Barry Padolsky met with City staff in January to discuss next steps for the proposed Strathcona Park gazebo project. Padolsky, the Sandy Hill resident who contributed the original architectural renderings, will be revising his design based on comments received through ASH’s community consultation feedback and open house. These updated designs will be shared with the community when available. Meanwhile, Padolsky will also be approaching contractors to get a detailed estimate of construction costs and see if companies may be interested in providing pro bono services. ASH anticipates launching a fundraising campaign later in 2021.

- with notes from Claude Jobin



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News Bites

Snow clearing standards to be updated

During the next year, the City plans to update its standards for snow clearing operations in terms of the impact on drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. The first steps, reaching out for public comments through an online survey and workshops, finished in mid-February. This public input will be used to formulate revised standards which will be brought to City Council for debate and approval in the fall of 2021 for implementation in the winter of 2021-2022. The most pressing issues the City needs to work through are whether to increase the level of spending on snow clearing and whether to rearrange its priorities regarding what gets plowed in what order. Today, snow clearing operations cost the City in the order of 70+ million dollars each year. Is that enough or should we spend more? Once snowfall exceeds five centimetres, current guidelines call for roads to be plowed within six hours of the end of the snowfall, and sidewalks within 16 hours. Is that the right priority? I know that within Sandy Hill we have many roadways where there are more pedestrians on the sidewalks than cars on the road so I'm scratching my head as to why the roads should be a higher priority than our sidewalks.

If you would like to be kept informed of the progress of this project visit the City's online engagement website at engage.ottawa.ca, go to the Winter Maintenance Quality Standards review section, and subscribe to project updates which will be sent to you by email.

- John Verbaas

Taking aim at invasive weeds

On Feb. 10, the Sandy Hill Tree and Greening group organized an initial meeting of Sandy Hill residents concerned with invasive weeds along the Rideau River, nearby parks and open areas, and private property. The virtual meeting discussed work by various groups in Ontario alarmed by the spread of invasive weeds such as Buckthorns, Japanese Knotweed, Dog-strangling Vine, and Wild Parsnips, and how they can displace native plants and damage gardens. Removing these plants while affected areas are relatively small seems to produce the best results.

Meeting attendees talked about the invasive weeds and the problem areas they had noticed in and around Sandy Hill. Possible stakeholders, sources of support, and priorities for 2021 were discussed. The next virtual meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 10. People interested in taking part can contact the Sandy Hill Tree and Greening Group at sandyhilltreegroup@gmail.com to be included on the distribution list for future meetings.

- Marilyn Whitaker



Dog-strangling Vine



Lucille Collard
MPP / députée Ottawa-Vanier



Chers résidents et résidentes d'Ottawa-Vanier

2021 a commencé avec plus de défis et de restrictions, mais aussi avec l'espoir que le déploiement du vaccin contre le COVID-19 apporte. Puisse nous tous continuer à faire ce qu'il faut pour nous garder en bonne santé et en sécurité. Notre sens de l'entraide est notre meilleur allié pour continuer la lutte pour traverser cette pandémie.

Lorsque la pandémie nous a obligé à déclarer l'état d'urgence dans la province, il y a près d'un an, je venais d'être élue. Alors que l'esprit de collaboration avec le gouvernement de Queen's Park s'épuisait, il est devenu nécessaire d'exiger davantage de soutien dans les domaines qui en avaient besoin. Les foyers de soins de longue durée, les bénéficiaires du Programme ontarien de soutien aux personnes handicapées (POSPH), les entreprises locales, l'éducation et l'environnement ont souffert du manque d'investissements du gouvernement.

Bien que j'aie trouvé des moyens alternatifs pour rejoindre notre communauté, il n'y a pas d'équivalent pour les conversations en personne et les événements communautaires pour pouvoir jaser avec vous. C'est pourquoi je veux vous inviter à communiquer avec moi et avec mon bureau pour me dire ce que le gouvernement doit faire et comment il doit faire mieux. Vos histoires et vos expériences fournissent des arguments fondés sur des faits vécus que je peux utiliser alors que je retourne à Queen's Park pour communiquer ces demandes en votre nom.

Entre-temps, ensemble avec les conseillers municipaux et notre députée fédérale d'Ottawa-Vanier, nous nous engageons à continuer de travailler sur les enjeux qui comptent pour Ottawa-Vanier.

Comme toujours, merci de faire votre part dans la lutte contre le COVID-19. Mon équipe demeure disponible pour vous aider. N'hésitez pas à nous appeler au 613-744-4484 ou à nous envoyer un courriel à lcollard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org.

Dear constituents

2021 has started with more challenges and restrictions, but also with the hope that the COVID-19 vaccine deployment brings. May we all continue to do the right thing to keep each other healthy and safe. Our sense of mutual support is our best ally in keeping up the fight to get through this pandemic.

When the pandemic forced us to declare a state of emergency in the province, almost a year ago, I had just been elected. As the spirit of collaboration with the government at Queen's Park was wearing out, it became necessary to demand more support in areas that needed it. Long-term care homes, people on the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), local businesses, education and the environment have been suffering from the lack of investments by the government.

While I have found alternative ways to reach out to our community, there is no equivalent for in-person conversations and community events to be able to connect with you. That is why I want to invite you to reach out to me and my office to let me know what and how the government needs to do better. Your stories and experiences provide concrete evidence-based arguments as I head back to Queen's Park to communicate those requests on your behalf.

In the meantime, together with the City Councillors and our Member of Parliament in Ottawa-Vanier, we are committed to continue working on the issues that matter to Ottawa-Vanier.

As always, thank you for doing your part in fighting COVID-19. Please reach out if you need help or if you want to share your story. My team remains available to help. Please feel free to give us a call at 613-744-4484 or send us an email at lcollard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org.

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Dutchy's Hole tree, iced by a snowfall.

Photo Yvonne van Alphen

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Chères résidentes, chers résidents,

J'espère que vous vous portez bien et que vous profitez de ces belles journées d'hiver à faire des activités dehors avec vos familles, bien sûr tout en respectant les directives de Santé publique Ottawa.

Février est le Mois de l'histoire des Noirs, c'est donc le moment de célébrer les immenses contributions, ainsi que la reconnaissance de la résilience et de la force des communautés noires dans Ottawa-Vanier et partout au pays. Pour de trop nombreux Canadiens, le racisme systémique est une réalité vécue. Nous savons que le racisme n'a pas fait de pause pendant la pandémie. Au contraire, la COVID-19 a frappé particulièrement durement les Canadiens racialisés. Notre gouvernement s'est engagé à s'attaquer au racisme anti-Noir et au racisme systémique, et il s'est engagé à le faire d'une manière qui s'inspire des expériences vécues par les communautés noires. Bien que nous puissions célébrer différemment cette année, nous pouvons encore nous connecter virtuellement pour honorer les incroyables réalisations des communautés noires du Canada qui ont tant fait pour en faire le pays culturellement diversifié, compatissant et prospère qu'il est aujourd'hui. Alors je vous conseille de prendre du temps et apprécier une personne noire passionnée de faire de notre communauté un endroit meilleur.

La santé et la sécurité des Canadiennes et Canadiens demeurent notre priorité; et notre gouvernement travaille avec diligence pour faire en sorte de minimiser les risques liés à la propagation de la COVID-19.

Nos entreprises continuent de faire face à la pandémie, alors que celle-ci se poursuit. Plusieurs d'entre elles ont été contraintes de limiter leur capacité, d'offrir des services uniquement en ligne ou de suspendre leurs activités en fonction des restrictions gouvernementales.

Pour aider ces entreprises à surmonter cette crise, notre gouvernement a lancé le Programme de crédit pour les secteurs très touchés (PCSTT) qui fournira un soutien financier aux entreprises les plus durement touchées par la pandémie, notamment les restaurants, les entreprises des secteurs du tourisme et de l'hôtellerie et celles qui dépendent d'une offre de services en personne.

Les entreprises admissibles peuvent commencer à présenter leur demande dès maintenant auprès des principaux établissements financiers. Je vous encourage à visiter le site Web <https://www.bdc.ca/fr/soutien-special/pcstt> pour déterminer si vous remplissez les conditions requises.

Je me réjouis de voir les gens s'entraider à distance pour garder notre communauté dynamique et solidaire malgré la distanciation physique.

Soyez assurés que mon bureau de circonscription est toujours là pour vous appuyer avec tous les aspects des services fédéraux. Communiquez avec nous au 613-998-1860 ou envoyez un courriel à mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca

Photo Jane McNamara



Our neighbours, Nicolas, Sophie, Saya, and Owen Moyer have built a beautiful, astounding igloo at their house on Osgoode. It's like a beacon of light on a cold night in this disheartening winter of COVID. — Jane McNamara

Down-to-the-wire decisions for the remaining residents of 146-170 Osgoode

Larry Newman

The blow for tenants of 146 to 170 Osgoode St. landed on June 30, 2020. They were all served eviction notices by their landlord, 146 Osgoode Street Holdings, Inc. The landlord revealed his intent to renovate their rooming house units to higher quality accommodations. The project is being managed by Smart Living, a local property management company.

As tenants began to leave, others started a campaign to reverse the eviction, calling the process *renoviction*. Since then, they have raised money (about \$1,500) for litigation expenses, sought media exposure, created a Facebook page (Tenants of 146-170 Osgoode St. vs. Renovictions) and received legal assistance from lawyer Ryan Deacon and uOttawa students from David Wiseman's law class. It's now seven months later and what's their status? Tenants initially suffered from a take-no-prisoners attitude by the landlord. However, Chandra, one of the remaining 10-15 tenants, reports that the landlord's policy "is more human now."

In support of that assessment, Howard Kravitz, manager for Smart Living Prop-

erties, recently showed Chandra an apartment that could be rented for \$650/month. It is new, private, has a back yard but it's a one-room apartment, clearly built for short-term renters like students. Chandra now rents a one-bedroom apartment from Smart Living with significantly more room. It's a difficult decision for Chandra. "Where am I going to put all my stuff?"

Ryan Deacon has agreed to provide legal representation at the Landlord and Tenant Board for any tenants who decide not to move. With the pandemic slowing nearly everything down, there has been no date set for the hearing. Deacon has heard that six months is the current wait time.

Deacon knows that these tenants don't have much money. He thinks that, when it's all over, he may collect about five percent of his normal fees. Deacon says that, after paying for filing fees, report requirements, inspections, etc., "...it probably makes sense just to throw a party or something for the remaining tenants; although that may not be an option, depending on how they raised the money."

In the meantime, contractors are continuing to tear down walls and rip up floors; basically gentrifying the whole block. Chandra has a short time to make his decision.

New beginnings for St. Paul's-Eastern congregation, alongside Rev. Boyd Drake

Photo supplied

Linda Scales

Despite the closure of Sandy Hill's St. Paul's-Eastern United Church, it is important to understand that only the church building as a place of worship has ceased to operate. While the building will be sold, its small but hopeful congregation are actively exploring options for continuing its faith journey. Supporting them is Rev. Boyd Drake, a retired minister from Aylmer with transitional expertise, hired after the November 2020 retirement of Rev. Laurie McKnight.

"In terms of transition or interim ministry, I think every church is in transition. Churches are dealing with issues they never thought they would ever have to deal with such as selling their buildings and a lack of attendance," said Rev. Drake recently about his work supporting congregations. He was the minister at Carleton Memorial United Church, near Hogs Back, until his 2016 retirement. Since then, he has helped a number of churches in the National Capital Region.

St. Paul's-Eastern, located at the corner of Cumberland and Daly, has deep roots in the community. Originating as a Presbyterian church in 1845 and then amalgamating with a nearby Methodist church in 1925 to become part of the new United Church of Canada, SPEU has been a spiritual, cultural, and community hub. While the church originally closed its doors for worship because of COVID-19, this also forced the congregation's decision to part with their spiritual home after years of financial headaches, a problem for many Canadian churches.

"A lot of the hard work was already done by this congregation by the time I arrived," Rev. Drake said about the decision to sell the church building. "That's probably the hardest thing to do because people are attached to their buildings."

After trying to sell the building without success, the congregation voted to sell it through the United Property Resource Program of the United Church of Canada. It remains to be seen what will eventually occupy the building. Currently, a City-run respite centre operates out of the church lower hall. A farewell

Rev. Boyd Drake is the temporary, part-time minister for St. Paul's-Eastern United Church, helping the congregation after they decided to sell the church building.

ceremony for the church building has yet to be planned.

"My job is not to do the work the congregation needs to do itself, but to offer some spiritual and theological reflection on what they're doing, and where they are with God in this journey," said Rev. Drake, who will work with the congregation part-time until late June 2021. "There's some pretty strong leadership in the congregation. They know what they're doing and I'm not going to mess with that."

Rev. Drake is in the unique position of never meeting his newest congregation in person — such is life under pandemic restrictions. However, three times each month he draws the community together in worship on Zoom. These services are later uploaded to the church's YouTube channel.

"I'm really aware that I'm not a resident of Sandy Hill and that all of my connection with the community and the church has been online," he said. "The connection to Sandy Hill and the sense that their church was part of the community is very significant to them."

Photo Martha Jeacle



There's no better place to get essential exercise. This year's Rideau Winter Trail extends from Donald Street to Hurdman LRT – nine kilometres in total.

What's new on the Rideau Winter Trail

Rob Sinclair

I am pretty sure I am not alone in thinking there are more people out and about in Sandy Hill during these COVID times. Our neighbourhood parks have become popular destinations and are invaluable local assets as we stay close to home in our locked-down world. While parks are busier in the summer, their winter charm – especially this winter – has really taken off. Nowhere is this more evident than the Rideau Winter Trail! But first, a little history:

In early 2019, Rideau Sports Centre CEO, Nicki Bridgland, and Councillors Mathieu Fleury and Tobi Nussbaum arranged to groom a single cross-country ski trail along the Rideau River, starting near the Adawe Crossing and running south. Some of you may remember it.

Last year, this group – with Councillor Rawlson King replacing former Councillor Nussbaum, plus Overbrook resident Peter Nor – ran a pilot of weekly grooming from mid-January to early March 2020. With the support of the City of Ottawa, this three-kilometre loop ran between the Rideau Sports Centre and Highway 417. It was well received by users.

This past November, the Rideau Winter Trail of Ottawa was established as a non-profit organization, with a board of directors that includes Nicki Bridgland, Councillors Fleury and King, Board Chair Peter Nor, and yours truly representing Sandy Hill. While the trail, or RWT for short, is not actually in Sandy Hill, it is on our virtual doorstep thanks to the Adawe Crossing.

This year, the free expanded trail runs from Donald Street to Hurdman and offers nine kilometres of winter fun for cross-country skiing (skate and classic), snowshoeing, fat biking, and walking.

(see www.rideauwintertrail.ca for the full map). There are a few hills around the Hurdman LRT station to give you a bit of a workout, should you want to test your skills! The section south of the 417 along the river is my favourite.

The long-term goal is to get the trail to Mooney's Bay, but this will depend on funding and community support. The volunteer board is grateful this season for support from the National Capital Commission, City of Ottawa, and Councillors Fleury, King, and Menard. The RWT is also supported by Anna Belanger & Associates, local real estate agents John Gomes and Natalie Belovic, and the University of Ottawa. The board is hoping to welcome more contributors to support this initiative.

A successful GoFundMe campaign was launched this year to increase the frequency and distance of grooming, and the community's contributions have exceeded expectations (editor's note: as of Feb. 9 the campaign has raised \$13,770 of the \$12,000 goal). In early February we were pleased to purchase an ATV and are aiming to one day buy our own specialized grooming gear to be pulled behind. You can find updates – or support the campaign – at www.gofundme.com/f/Rideau-Winter-Trail-of-Ottawa.

With our current COVID-19 challenges, the Rideau Winter Trail offers local residents easy access to a beautiful recreational trail. Unfortunately, the current situation has put the organization of events and equipment rentals on hold, but there are lots of great ideas brewing for the future.

As Councillor Fleury says, "The Rideau Winter Trail green space and NCC pathway system provide a wonderful winter canvas for outdoor activities. Embrace winter, grab your skis and enjoy the trail for free!"

L'Université d'Ottawa est heureuse de soutenir la Piste d'hiver Rideau (PHR) et d'encourager de nombreuses activités de plein air amusantes pour les individus, les familles ou les groupes de notre communauté de la Côte-de-Sable. La proximité du sentier avec l'Université d'Ottawa permet également à ceux qui se trouvent sur notre campus d'accéder facilement au sentier pour profiter de la vie en plein air, que ce soit pour une promenade, du ski de fond, de la raquette ou d'autres activités. S'adonner en toute sécurité à des activités de plein air est essentiel pour la santé de tous et nous sommes heureux de faire partie d'un groupe de partenaires qui contribue à donner vie à ce projet communautaire au centre de la ville.

— Eric Bercier, Vice-recteur associé, Affaires étudiantes

L'hon./The hon. Mona Fortier
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Dear residents,

I hope you are doing well and enjoying these beautiful winter days while doing outdoor activities with your families, of course while respecting Ottawa Public Health guidelines.

February is known as Black History Month, therefore it is a time to celebrate the immense contributions, along with the recognition of the resilience and strength of Black communities in Ottawa-Vanier and across the country. For too many Canadians, systemic racism is a lived reality. We know that racism did not take a pause during the pandemic. On the contrary, COVID-19 has hit racialized Canadians especially hard. The Government pledged to address anti-Black and systemic racism and committed to do so in a way that is informed by the lived experiences of Black communities. Although we may celebrate differently this year, we can still connect virtually to honour the incredible achievements of Black communities in Canada that have done so much to make it the culturally diverse, compassionate and prosperous country it is today. So, I suggest you take some time and appreciate a black person passionate about making our community a better place.

The health and safety of Canadians remains our priority, and our Government is working diligently to minimize the risks associated with the spread of COVID-19.

Our businesses are continuing to struggle as the pandemic

continues. Many have been forced to operate a limited capacity, switching to on-line-only services or suspending operations entirely in line with government restrictions.

To help these businesses get through to the other side of this crisis, our government has launched the Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program (HASCAP) program, which will provide financial support to businesses that have been hardest hit by the pandemic, including restaurants, businesses in the tourism and hospitality sectors, and businesses that rely on in-person service.

Eligible businesses can start applying now for the program at principal financial institutions. I encourage you to visit www.bdc.ca/hascap to see if you qualify.

I am delighted to see people working together from a distance to keep our social and dynamic community together despite physical distancing. Rest assured that my constituency office is always there to support you with all aspects of federal services. Give us a call at 613-998-1860 or email us at mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca.

Sandy Hill skiers



Photo Yvonne van Alphen



Photo Rob Sinclair

Sandy Hill's riverside park lives up to its reputation for year-round activity.

Winterizing heritage

Update on the former Egyptian Embassy residence

Hilary Duff

There is no shortage of goings-on at the corner of Range Road and Laurier Avenue East. Until recently, the lot was home to the Egyptian Embassy, a two-storey brick and timber residence constructed in 1924. The property was all but demolished in the fall of 2020.

Talk of demolition started in 2006 when the Egyptian government first put forward a request to rezone the property as an office building. Heritage Ottawa, Action Sandy Hill, and many Sandy Hill residents opposed rezoning at the time, saying it would transform the residential character of the neighbourhood and put other similar buildings at-risk of conversion.

The corner property is now a construction zone and hosts an impressive assemblage of tarps and scaffolding. Ottawa-based firm Graebeck Construction Ltd. has been hired to oversee the construction of the new property—a contemporary, two-storey house plus basement that will be the residence for the Egyptian Ambassador.

A point of curiosity for Sandy Hill residents has been the decision to keep the two original corner-facing walls. Those are the structures now protected beneath the tarps. Andrew Splinter, Graebeck’s senior project manager for the site, says the plan was always to maintain the pair of walls in order to preserve the heritage appearance along the well-trafficked corner.

Keeping them standing, Splinter says, has been an interesting engineering challenge. He explains that the old foundations were structurally unsound, and the team had to dig out sections of the former foundation and fill it with concrete to construct a new foundation wall (a process called underpinning).

The scaffolding was erected to secure the two walls from the wind, and Splinter gestures at a photo on his phone showing the wood reinforcement that edges the inside of the site.

Radiant heat is pumped around the structure via 2,500 feet of black hose. This prevents the freezing, thawing, and shifting of the ground, which could further compromise the structural integrity of the site.

Straw bales keep the heat at ground level and prevent frost from forming. “It’s so warm in there that the grass is growing through the hay,” remarks Splinter. “It costs the owner a significant amount more money to keep these walls than it would to tear them down.”

The completed residence will incorporate the two original walls as a facade



The corner of Range Road and Laurier Avenue East has become a four-season construction zone, with construction expected to wrap in April 2022.



Photo Hilary Duff

for the new structure. “We’ll brace them back to the new building and then refinish the outside,” explains Splinter, who also worked on the retrofit of nearby St. Alban’s Church.

The Graebeck team is continuing to work through the winter months and expects to have the steel skeleton of the building standing by April of this year, with the full residence constructed by April 2022.

Photo Andrew Splinter



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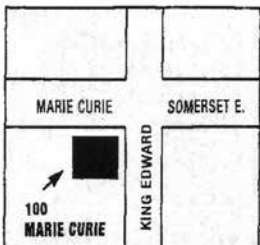
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The cautionary tale of 460 Wilbrod Street

Photo Hilary Duff

François Bregha

Located at the south end of Cobourg Street, 460 Wilbrod is a large Victorian house. It is an individually designated building under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and is part of the Wilbrod/Laurier Heritage Conservation District (HCD). The Wilbrod/Laurier HCD was created to protect an excellent example of a late 19th-century upper-middle-class residential neighbourhood which also happened to be home to four Canadian prime ministers.

One of the former residents of 460 Wilbrod was J. Mortimer Courtney, deputy-minister of Finance for 28 years (1878-1906). In 1908, after he retired, Courtney chaired a royal commission on public service reform that recommended the introduction of competitive exams for new hires and laid the basis for the merit-based system we know today.

Over the years, the exterior walls of 460 Wilbrod deteriorated as a result of the brick being painted, and later sand-

blasted to remove the paint. In the fall of 2018, the owner of the property began to cover the brick with stucco panels both to protect it and to provide added insulation. This work did not require a building permit but it did require a heritage permit, which the owner did not apply for. When the City became aware of this work, it issued a Property Standards Order to stop the renovation, and repair or restore the heritage attributes of the building.

In the spring/summer 2019, the owner retained a heritage engineer to analyze options that would meet the intent of the Wilbrod/Laurier HCD management plan. The option that was eventually chosen involves removing the stucco panels on the front façade and applying a thin brick veneer to replace the exposed brick face; on the sides and rear, an insulating layer of Styrofoam will be covered by the same



Photo Hilary Duff



460 Wilbrod is part of the Wilbrod/Laurier Heritage Conservation District.

thin brick, providing an overall uniform appearance.

According to a City staff report, the heritage engineer obtained matching brick samples and a tinted mortar sample to ensure their compatibility with the building and the HCD. The thin brick will match as closely as possible the original bricks in colour, bond pattern, mortar colour, and profile. The detailed brick elements such as the voussoirs, brick string course, sills and window surrounds will also be reinstated. The timeline for completion of this project remains uncertain.

So, one could say that all's well that ends well but there is clearly a lesson to be learned here. Many property owners do not know what their obligations are when undertaking work on a building in a Heritage

Conservation District. Across the street from 460 Wilbrod stands 231 Cobourg, the former Ugandan High Commission which, while not a protected building, was allowed to deteriorate to such an extent through lack of proper maintenance that it will be demolished. A Heritage Conservation District is only as relevant as the sum of its parts: if parts start to disappear, not only is the district's integrity compromised but so is the very reason for its existence. The City must bear some responsibility for the continued lack of awareness of heritage protection requirements among property owners and contractors; our Councillor Mathieu Fleury has declared his intention to work with City staff this year to ensure that this situation is improved.



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What a fascinating year it's been for the residential real estate market, where a hot sellers market led to quick sales and record-high prices across the country, from coast to coast. The availability of five-year mortgages under two percent fueled buyer demand while the fear of COVID-19 kept the supply of listings low in the spring, normally the season that brings the highest number of listings to the market.

In March of last year, the Province of Ontario declared a State of Emergency and deemed real estate an essential service. By May, the number of listings started to gain momentum as the public gained confidence that COVID-19 safety precautions were in place and effective. However, buyer demand continued to outweigh supply for the balance of the year. Ottawa realtors worked hard to make up for the early spring pause and, by year end, the total sales volume set a record-breaking \$10 billion compared to \$8.2 billion in 2019. The average sale price of residential properties in the entire Ottawa region increased by a whopping 19.7 percent.

Sandy Hill homeowners have been enjoying robust seller market conditions for years and are accustomed to nail-biting bidding wars. At the end of 2020, the average Sandy Hill house price was \$788,283, whereas the average house price in the region was \$582,267. As well, 46 percent of Sandy Hill home sales were sold over list price.

Many out-of-town buyers, particularly those coming from higher-valued markets, favour

Sandy Hill Real Estate Immune to Pandemic



Steeped in history, Sandy Hill remains a hot spot for local and out-of-town buyers alike, with its diverse blend of housing styles and demographics. Embassy Row overlooks Strathcona Park, on the west banks of the Rideau River, home to summer theatres and a play structure designed to look like ruins.

Sandy Hill and are not shy to compete with local buyers or to set record prices. Faulkner Real Estate can effectively reach buyers all over the globe at the same time as local buyers. These far-away buyers often need to rely on virtual viewings, as there isn't time for them to get here.

What will happen in 2021? I don't know, there are so many variables. It comes down to the basic economic principle of supply and demand and affordability.

- Homeowners who planned to go to market last spring but were deterred by COVID-19 might choose to go to the market this spring.

- New construction projects underway may provide the alternate housing Sandy Hill homeowners have been waiting for.
- Some Sandy Hill homeowners may want to cash out rather than risk the uncertainty of what the future may bring.
- Buyers may not be ready, willing and able to pay the prices that sellers want.

If you would like to keep abreast of listing and sales activity in Sandy Hill, or if you are seeking representation, please contact Judy Faulkner. Judy@HomesInOttawa.com or 613-231-4663

What’s behind your walls?

The February issue of IMAGE typically explores and appreciates the heritage of Sandy Hill. In honour of this, we asked readers to share the interesting items they have uncovered while renovating their homes. Here’s a selection of our submissions.



The house at 505 Chapel was built in three stages: 1892, 1902, and the rear section in the 1930s. My ex-wife and I bought the house in 1984. When we were moving in, we found a woman in the house. She was a neighbour who had looked after the elderly woman who had owned the house and passed away. Apparently, the past owner had promised her \$78,000 and she was determined that it was here. She never found it. As we renovated the house, removed the plaster and lathe, old cast iron plumbing, knob and tube wiring, the thought was always there . . . \$78k.

One day I was on a stepladder working through the trap door in the attic. I had my hand probing through the insulation and I felt a cylindrical metal object . . . a can? The money??? As I pulled the “can” out to look into it, I got a face full of soot! It turned out to be a small section of stove pipe.

Nowhere was there any money to be found, only old German newspapers and a beer bottle from the Capital Brewing Co. that I found lodged in the rubble stone foundation.

We too left many “time capsules” throughout the house for the next owners, mostly in the form of complete newspapers, photos, and notes. A house should tell a story!

– Robert Batsch



Shortly after moving to our house, a contractor found a wooden box tucked away in the basement joists. While it wasn’t full of 1920s baseball cards as we had hoped, it did contain an old three-piece fishing rod, lures, and varnish. The previous owner later told us the box had been left by the house’s original owner who lived here from 1927 to 1977. Years from now, we’ll leave the box and a brief note on its history for the home’s next owner to find.

– Allen and Michaela Nolan



I have been diverted by many interesting finds over the years. In addition to the standard old layers of wallpaper and newspapers from the ‘20s and ‘30s, some of the items discovered under the floorboards include: empty cigarette packages, cards from cigarette packages, some E B Eddy “sanitized wax toilet paper” (appropriately found during a bathroom reno), a shoe polishing brush, shopping lists, and some cartoons on (now very faded) film. But the most personal and

Some of Kathy Moyer’s curious finds. The sanitized wax toilet paper may have deterred even the worst of pandemic hoarders!

intriguing bit of history has to be a note written in pencil on the back of some plywood by Patrice Brunet in 1942 when he carried out work on the third floor of a Besserer Street home. From what I can decipher, it says:

Cette fenestration (sic) a été fait par Patrice Brunet de Casselman (ONT) le 10 juin 1942. Mon patron était M. Edgar Proulx.

Mon salaire était 90 cent de l’heur. mon union ouvrière le syndig[c]at Catholique. Mon opinion sur la gui[e]rre était indif[f]erante. Je desirai surtout la paix puis [?] qui glavais Dominer ton Seigneur [?] certains que l’un pourrait garder sa foi et établir le contrat social.

– Kathy Moyer with deciphering help from François Bregha and Betsy Mann



Years ago, on the pine boards that form the ceiling of the basement cold storage room, I spotted these vestiges of the original owner of my house. Seems Colonel Hurdman had a car shipped to him and put the crate to good use. – Ralph Blaine



Chris Evans and Clara Winer found this calendar in the walls of their Blackburn Avenue home recently while doing major renovations. Framed, it now decorates their new kitchen, a reminder of the neighbourhood’s history.

– Betsy Mann



When I moved to Ottawa in the 1970s, I shared a house close to the Canal. As in many old houses, the heat from the furnace seemed not to reach the back rooms in winter. So one day, we decided to check out the attic and see whether we could add some insulation. When we reached the attic we realized that someone had already done so some 35 years earlier; and had laid down magazines and newspapers on the floor, our ceiling.

Some of these had been chewed by mice but many were still in excellent condition. Needless to say, we stopped our insulation job of a common accord, as we devoured the dusty news from three decades earlier. The insulation could wait for another day.

– François Bregha

Photo Matt Davidson



Your name in lights

Paula Kelsall

We're all still sad that the ByTowne Cinema marquee is no longer enticing us to drop in for a couple of hours of cinematic pleasure. Lately, though, the marquee has been offering a different kind of entertainment as birthdays, recently published books, marriage proposals, and special occasions have been celebrated up there in short messages for all to see.

Lowertown residents Avery and Greg celebrated their wedding anniversary (pandemic edition!) with a message on the ByTowne Cinema marquee. It will be a lasting souvenir of these times and a celebration of one of their favourite local landmarks.

ByTowne owner Bruce White says the marquee rentals have been pretty popular so far. If you'd like to share your thoughts with passersby on Rideau Street (and help keep the marquee lit at night), he's ready to take your request at cinemail@bytowne.ca. The cost of posting a message is \$100 per day (plus HST) for one side of the marquee – a good opportunity to send a photo to friends or post on social media. It's \$150 for both sides.

Au revoir Betty Brite! Bonne chance, June!

Nérée St-Amand

Pour les habitués de la Côte-de-Sable, le nettoyeur Betty Brite, au 218 avenue Laurier Est, était un endroit important dans notre communauté. La proximité, le service impeccable, l'accueil chaleureux et j'en passe. Comment oublier les immenses services rendus par cette entreprise au cours de nombreuses années! Tout brillait quand nous sortions de là, même nos sourires! Et maintenant, malheureusement, les portes sont fermées pour de bon. En plus, nous ne pouvons plus saluer leur employée modèle, June Descarie.

June nous servait avec tellement de gentillesse, tellement de bonté. Sourde et muette, elle se débrouillait à merveille en lisant sur les lèvres... jusqu'au jour où, avec les masques de protection, elle ne pouvait plus lire ce qu'on lui disait. Sa seule option alors: nous faire écrire ce qu'on souhaitait. Quelle couturière! Quels talents! Quel sourire! J'étais plein d'admiration pour elle et pour un employeur qui lui avait fait une place dans notre communauté. Un autre endroit qui rendait la Côte-de-Sable bien vivante, un quartier dont nous sommes fiers.

Nous nous consolons en pensant que d'autres entreprises ouvrent leurs portes, comme Safi Fine Foods, avec le brave Mohamed qui va nous accueillir incessamment au 296 avenue Somerset Est avec ses merveilleux mets qui nous gardent en santé!



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Photo Hilary Duff

Snowy creatures emerge from blanket on Sandy Hill streets

Hilary Duff

From snow families to front-yard igloos, Sandy Hill’s hobbyist snow sculptors have been busy this winter. Some of the most notable figures are found in the front yard of 360 Daly Ave., where Genevieve Waring and Corbin Stewart live (see photo on page 1).

“Since the pandemic started it has been quite bleak and I’ve been nagging my boyfriend to come out and help me make snowmen,” Waring jokes. “We had a really great snowfall and when we went outside we said, “Why don’t we try making bears instead?”

The result is two bears, a cat named Toulouse (named after a character from the animated movie Aristocats), and a rabbit that the online community Reddit has called Thumper. Each sports a red necktie made from upcycled yarn. The adorable creatures have become popular photo subjects in recent weeks, and the couple regularly see kids and adults alike posing alongside their creations.

Waring and Stewart have rented in Sandy Hill for the past three years, but lived previously in an apartment building where they didn’t have access to a yard. Now they’re making up for lost time. “We’ve gone all the way into the back-yard to get as much packing snow as we

can,” Stewart laughs.

From there, they divide their time. Stewart constructs the snowballs and Waring adds her artistic flare. Once finished, the sculptures are sprayed with water every couple of hours so they freeze in place.

A fun winter pastime, Waring says the sculptures have also provided a distraction from the reality of the pandemic. She is a freelance make-up artist and has been unable to work since COVID-19 began. “I’ve been trying to find more creative outlets to keep myself occupied during these hard times,” Waring says. “Art is definitely one of the things that I’ve always loved to do.”

She hopes the sculptures can provide the same temporary escape for neighbourhood walkers. “I want them to be something that people can look at and feel like a kid again, for them to see something that isn’t the news, that can bring joy to their day,” Waring says. “It’s nice to give something back to the community,” Stewart adds.

The couple plans to continue adding sculptures throughout the winter. A unicorn was added most recently, and they are already planning for more ambitious creatures like a dragon or a polar bear standing on its hind legs.

Only half jokingly, Waring says there is one way neighbours could help: “If someone is willing to donate a brick of snow, as weird as it sounds, that would be awesome!”

Photo Betsy Mann

Not long after Christmas, the weather turned in time to bring families out to enjoy the packing-quality snow. These three balls were destined to become just one of several snowmen that made temporary statuary in Strathcona Park.

Temporary sculpture gallery opens in Strathcona Park

Photos of snow people by Sabrina Mathews



Claude Schryer realizes that physical distancing need not apply for snowy new friends.




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Spot the style: An architectural tour of Sandy Hill

Samuel Close

Being at the heart of Ottawa, Sandy Hill has seen a lot of change over the years. One of the most obvious places this can be seen is in its unique blend of architectural styles. Of the many types of buildings found here, the majority still standing are from the mid-19th to 20th centuries, an era that encompasses several major schools of design.

As is common, some of the oldest sites in Sandy Hill are churches. Ones that come to mind are the All Saints Anglican Church on the corner of Laurier and Chapel, built in 1899 and now an event space, as well as the Roman Catholic St. Joseph's, which stands currently in its third iteration as a Neo-Gothic parish church.

Notable historic workplace and office buildings at the cusp of Sandy Hill and Lowertown have changed hands many times and taken on multiple roles. This includes a former children's hospital on Wurtemburg Street, established in 1888 and now housing the Embassy of Turkey; as well as the Wallis House at the intersection of Rideau and Charlotte, a former hospital that is now split into condos. Also of note are the facilities of the uOttawa campus, which exhibit a mix of styles including Beaux Arts, with Tabaret Hall being the best example. Other significant university-owned properties include the buildings on Seraphin-Marion Private (near Wilbrod and Cumberland): Hagen Hall is Art Deco and Academic Hall has Neo-Gothic influence.

Sandy Hill has typically been seen primarily as a residential neighbourhood, and so naturally this is reflected in its houses. Some of these first plots of land settled after Confederation were the homes of government officials and employees. As the neighbourhood transformed from a



Built in 1895, the Bate-Fenton House at the corner of Wilbrod and Cobourg is a prominent example of Victorian architecture and is included in the Wilbrod Street Heritage Conservation District.

more rural setting to a commuting suburb, grand houses reflecting the growing popularity (and wealth) of the neighbourhood began to appear. As time passed and the city grew, the large-lawned mansions more common to the northeast of Sandy Hill gave way to smaller, more compact townhouses and single-family detached dwellings.

On the bigger plots that were more readily available in the past, Victorian, Neo-

Gothic, and Italianate styles dominate, with some examples of Georgian Revival also present. To the south of the neighbourhood, many Edwardian Foursquare, as well as Arts and Crafts-style bungalows can be found. These are especially popular with families because of their large front porch and wide-set frame. They constitute the majority of dwellings constructed in the early 20th century and often display a mix of painted brick or

wood panels, exhibiting a bright splash of yellow or green.

Wherever you live in Sandy Hill, I think we can all appreciate the variety of architectural styles present here. The patchwork of historic locations makes for some enjoyable sightseeing, whether you are a local history buff like me, or just out for a casual walk.

Photos Marc Frame



This second iteration of Tabaret Hall on the uOttawa campus was constructed after the original building burnt down in 1903.



A jumble of the many architectural styles, old and new, found in Sandy Hill.



St. Joseph's Parish was rebuilt as a Neo-Gothic structure after a fire in 1930.



The recognizable Philomène Terrace, an impressive eight-unit stone row house along Daly Avenue.



Hagen Hall, an Art Deco building on Seraphin-Marion Private.

From Ken Clavette’s Album of Bygone Sandy Hill



A 1958 aerial photograph showcasing the many rail bridges across the Rideau River. Can you recognize any off hand?

The many railway bridges of Sandy Hill

Ken Clavette

In recent years, Sandy Hill has benefited from the addition of two new footbridges. The Corktown Footbridge/Passerelle Corktown opened in 2006, followed by the Adawe Crossing/passerelle Adawe in 2015. But in an earlier time, railways dominated the community’s bridges. In this 1958 aerial photo of the Hurdman area one sees quite a different set of bridges than today.

In the bottom of the photo (south), one can see the Canada Atlantic Railway bridge. The line was complete in 1883 from Coteau, Québec, to the Chaudière yards. This bridge is no more.

The next bridge north is the Ottawa & New York Railway, which arrived with a new line from Cornwall to Ottawa in 1898. Its yard and station were at the intersection of King Edward and Mann avenues. On February 16, 1957, New York Central Railroad – that had taken over the Ottawa & New York Railway – abandoned the line from Ottawa to Cornwall. That bridge is now a pedestrian and cycle crossing of the Rideau River, near the uOttawa Gee-Gees

Field.

One can see the early stages of the Queensway in the photo. Rail lines were being removed. Construction of the new expressway got underway in 1957, when Queen Elizabeth detonated dynamite charges from the Hurdman Bridge.

The Hurdman Bridge just north of the Queensway, built in 1907, was not a railway bridge. It was a concrete arch bridge built by the City to replace the wood structure privately owned by the Hurdman family. The family’s first bridge had already collapsed once in 1902. In 1875, it had been only the third span to be built across the Rideau River.

The last railway bridge belonged to the Canadian Northern Ontario Railway. It opened a line from Hawkesbury to Ottawa, terminating at the foot of Henderson Avenue. It started service between Montreal and Ottawa on December 5, 1909. Taken over by the Canadian National Railway, it was the first major railway line to be abandoned in Ottawa. At low water levels one can still see the remains of the bridge’s foundation in the river. [Editor’s note: this is also visible in satellite images on Google Earth]



The CPR Rideau River Bridge, mid-century. Paterson George Collection, 1956.

What’s in a curve?

Discovering Ottawa’s CPR Rideau River Bridge

Barry Padolsky

Staying at home has its benefits. Beyond the public health contribution to slowing the spread of the COVID-19 contagion, staying at home grants us a rare temporal window for new personal discoveries.

If we interpret our neighbourhoods as “home,” (provided that we avoid close contact with our friends and strangers), we can explore our local communities in search of hidden landmarks: the extraordinary amidst the ordinary.

I have used my forced confinement in Ottawa’s Sandy Hill neighbourhood to see what I could find. As an architect, I can’t resist studying our urban habitat. It’s a compulsion. For the most part, our built environment is of limited distinction. Still, I am always in search of beauty.

On my morning walks along the Rideau River, I discovered the unexpected. The familiar arrow straight “Hurdman” footbridge across the Rideau River just south of the Queensway is curved!

Yes curved. And to my eye, it possesses an extraordinarily beautiful curve. I always assumed that it was straight. Yet when you squint along its axis, a most subtle curve is revealed, creating a visual

liveliness that Ictinus and Callicrates, the architects of the Parthenon well understood in 438 BC.

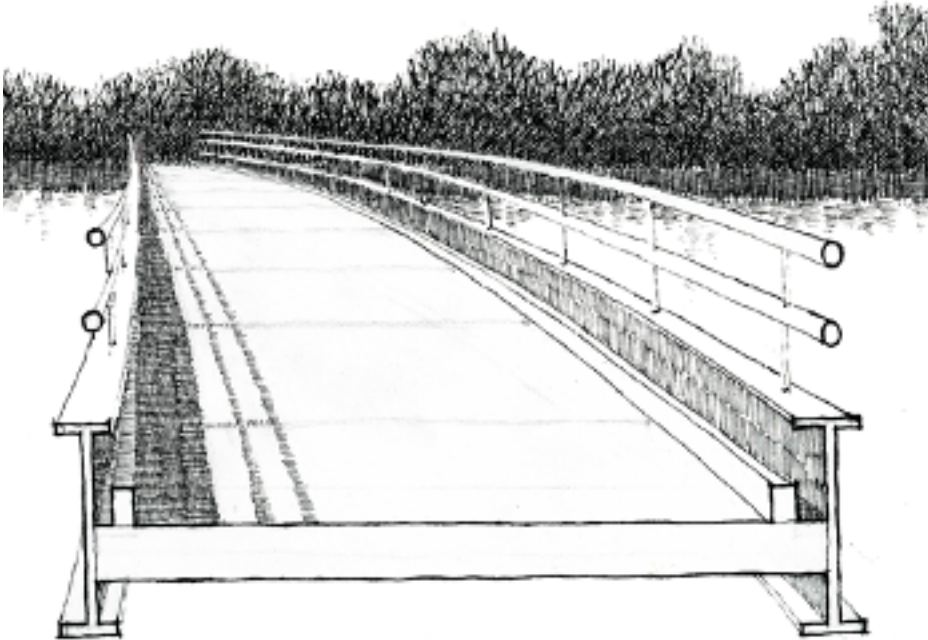
Were the designers of this former railway bridge (constructed in 1898) sensitive artists as well as pragmatic engineers? Probably not. The bridge was just a part of a railway alignment that had to accommodate changes in train direction gradually. Especially at high speeds. Still the curve is beautiful.

Having discovered the “curve” I became curious about its geometry. It appears that the curve is an arc of a circle. I revisited my forgotten high school geometry lessons. Using the “intersecting chords theorem” I calculated that the radius of this arc was approximately 1.6 kilometres long, with its centre somewhere near the bowling alley on McArthur Avenue in Vanier. Unearthing this trivial fact was almost as satisfying as the experiencing the epiphany of the “curve.”

Instead of photographing the “curve” I took the time to capture it in a freehand ink drawing. This allowed me to savour the subtle magic of this utilitarian landmark as it emerged in my sketchbook. In these times of contagion we are urged to “flatten the curve.” Along with the Parthenon, this particular curved Ottawa landmark deserves to be savoured.

This article first appeared in The Ottawa Citizen on May 4, 2020.

Illustration Barry Padolsky



Architect Barry Padolsky took the time to hand sketch the “curve.”



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Contingency management drug treatment: Have we tried this yet?

Larry Newman

In the June issue of IMAGE, I reviewed the book, *The Age of Fentanyl*, by Dr. Brodie Ramin. Dr. Ramin treats drug-addicted clients at the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre. Earlier this year, he mused on Twitter about a treatment called Contingency Management (CM) and why it hasn't been used more often.

CM is not new. In some form, it's been used by most parents. We use it when we reward our children for their good behaviour—when they mow the lawn or bring in the garbage containers from the curb every week. In the case of drug addicts trying to kick the habit, the reward is for staying drug free for some period of time.

A common treatment is for the client to replace the addictive drug with a substitute, such as buprenorphine or methadone. These are opioids and can be used in place of other, more dangerous opioids such as fentanyl or heroin. The substitute opioids can be dispensed by prescription, assuring the user that the drug isn't contaminated or containing a "filler" chemical, an all too common experience with street drugs.

In a recent *New York Times* article, Abby Goodnough writes about Steven Kelty, a Pennsylvania resident with a crack cocaine addiction. "He would come to a clinic twice a week to provide a urine sample, and if it was free of drugs, he

would get to draw a slip of paper out of a fishbowl. Half of the slips of paper contained encouraging messages—typically, "Good job!"—but the other half were vouchers for prizes worth between \$1 and \$100," the story reads.

As I searched for examples of CM to treat drug addiction, I found many instances of programs that have tried and written about it, but very few ongoing programs. However, searching the medical journals, I found nine articles reporting results of CM trials. All results showed CM provided better results than the control treatment.

One study evaluated 50 published and unpublished randomized control trials for 12 addiction treatments. CM plus community reinforcement was the only intervention that increased the number of abstinent patients at the end of treatment. The community reinforcement approach involves the patient's family and/or local people in the treatment process to encourage abstinence.

CM is clearly effective. Why then don't government and business rush to employ this clearly beneficial treatment? I suspect one reason is because CM requires rewards and counselling to operate effectively. That's expensive. Also, there is probably little political support for a program that rewards drug users.

However, we know it works. Now's the time, Ottawa Public Health. Let's get off the fence and fund this drug addiction treatment. We have many clinics in Ottawa and a big illicit drug problem.

Meet Miso, Sandy Hill's own therapy dog

Christine Aubry

Meet Miso, the therapy dog who lives on Chapel Street with her long-time Sandy Hill family: Eric, Caroline, Elie, and Maël.

Miso, one of the many Labradoodles that were rescued during a crackdown on a puppy mill in Quebec that saved 600 dogs, was adopted from Friendly Giant Dog Rescue. Though she was originally named Ginger, the family wanted to give her a name that would reflect their love of Japanese culture (Eric and Caroline taught English together in Japan for several years), and would also maintain the food and colour theme. And so, Miso the puppy became the pet-sibling of Sushi the goldfish.

Although now technically a senior at over nine years of age, Miso is still in excellent health and eager to please all humans (dogs, however, not so much – with the exception of her friend May on Goulburn Avenue). It was this obvious love of humans coupled with her submissive nature that led someone to suggest to Eric that his puppy would make a good therapy dog. And so, after two years of training, Miso and Eric passed Ottawa Therapy Dogs' test to become an officially certified therapy team.

Until the pandemic shut down all in-person volunteering, Miso and Eric had a busy schedule. They regularly visited *Centre de Transition Communautaire* (CTC) where they worked with adults with developmental disabilities. "That was the really rewarding [work]," says

Eric. While some individuals were immediately excited to spend time with Miso, others were fearful of dogs initially. Over time they began to interact and eventually felt comfortable enough to walk the dog alongside Eric.

Miso's other job was a natural fit for Eric, who is a University of Ottawa professor. The university offers its students and staff a monthly pet therapy program ("*zoothérapie*" *en français*). Eric tells me that there would always be a long line-up of students, many who missed their family pets back home, and others who were fearful but wanted to meet a friendly dog to help them get over their trepidation. Regardless of their reason for coming, Miso would happily lie on the floor, belly-up, and let these youth, sometimes up to 12 at a time, get some puppy therapy.

Even off duty, Miso provides joy to Sandy Hillers of all ages, especially the school children who see her every morning on her way to her university office. "All the kids [at Francojeunesse] know her, they get excited when she goes by. By end of school year everyone knows Miso," says Eric.

Now that just about everyone is at home and school is online, Miso spends her days mostly sleeping by her partner's side. Although Eric is Miso's "main human," like most of our furry companions these days, she is enjoying having all of her people around: "It will be a transition [for her] to not have her pack around all the time," says Eric.

Thankfully for Miso, she will have many other humans happy to rub her belly and again see her wagging tail.

—with notes from Eric Crighton



Photo Christine Aubry

Miso was adopted after a crackdown on a Quebec puppy mill. She and her humans live on Chapel Street.

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One meal, two kitchens

Dodi and Patricia Newman

In these COVID days, cooking together via video chat is a great way of sharing an experience. As we work away in our kitchens, hearing a desperate “I burnt the garlic!” or a deeply satisfied “Mmmm, that smells good,” we occasionally forget that we are not in the same kitchen.

From a recent experience with my daughter, here are a few tips on how to make this work well:

Choose recipes that minimize the need to go from shop to shop for unusual ingredients.

If you’re having trouble maintaining your internet connection, think about buying a repeater (a device that extends the reach of the wireless signal). The device (tablet, phone, or laptop) and app you use (FaceTime, WhatsApp, Signal, etc.) also make a difference. For us, a smartphone and WhatsApp worked best.

Bluetooth headphones allow you to walk around the kitchen and still hear the other person clearly, undisturbed by ambient noise. If the headphones have a microphone, then the other person can hear you clearly, too. If you wear hearing aids, check if they are Bluetooth-enabled.

Working at the same pace allows you to finish at the same time – then, even continents apart (as in our case), you can sit down and enjoy the meal you prepared together.

The recipe we prepared last was Patricia’s mildly spiced Indian red lentil dish. Diverging from the recipe in small ways made it more interesting and it was fun comparing notes on the results. One of us went with the coriander at the end, while the other tried fennel and garlic. All three together taste best.



Fragrant dal

- 1 cup red lentils
- 3 cups water
- 1/4 rounded teaspoon turmeric
- 1 dried chili pepper, 8 to 10 cm long
- 2 tablespoons oil
- 1 cup chopped onions
- 2 teaspoons grated or very thinly julienned ginger
- 1 cup chopped tomatoes
- Salt to taste
- 1 handful coriander leaves, roughly chopped

Rinse the lentils in several changes of water until the water is not so cloudy.

Over medium heat, bring the water and the lentils to a boil, skimming off the scum that will form on the surface. When the scum stops forming, add turmeric and pepper. Reduce heat to a simmer, cover, and cook for 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, heat the oil in a large frying pan over medium heat. When it is hot, add the onions and fry, stirring constantly, until caramelized. Stir in the ginger, fry for another minute. Add the tomatoes and continue cooking until they have softened. Stir occasionally.

When the lentils are almost done, add the fried onion/tomato/spice combo and salt to the dal. Continue cooking at a low simmer for another 5-10 minutes to blend the flavours. Serve topped with the coriander.

Variation: Heat 1 tablespoon of canola oil in a frying pan, add 1/2 teaspoon crushed fennel seeds, fry for 20-40 seconds, take the pan off the heat and add a bit of minced garlic, fry for about 30 seconds, and then stir everything into the lentils.



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This winter let’s remember to treat ourselves often to life’s small pleasures and to support our local businesses.

Please share stories of your favourite Sandy Hill food experiences with image22@rogers.com



Leftovers for lunch, a good reason to order Indian takeout for supper!

Madhuban, 610 Rideau St.

This month our family checked out some of the Indochinese dishes on Madhuban’s menu. Vegetable noodles were hot and delicious. Chili paneer was a very enjoyable pairing of chunks of mild cheese with a warming spicy sauce. Exercise caution when choosing your spice level; this is one restaurant where “mild” is not for wimps.

RamaKrishna, 417 Rideau St.

You can now order food for delivery directly from RamaKrishna, which we found to be a super-speedy and worthwhile service on one recent, very cold night. Ordering direct through their website also gets you a 10% discount. The paneer tikka masala (with an onion and tomato sauce), the navratan korma (vegetables and cheese in a sweet and creamy sauce) and the multi-layered butter naan were especially delicious, and the portions allowed for lunch the next day.



Sprint Snacks at the corner of Wilbrod and Friel.

Sprint Snacks, 304 Wilbrod St.

The menu at this cheery takeout place is pretty eclectic. There’s Lebanese influence in the fattoush salad and hummus; the crepes are a little French, a little Bulgarian; the sandwiches and wraps (Philadelphia; chicken club) are pure North American. Don’t be put off by this unusual mix; the chef knows what he’s doing. The

chicken avocado sandwich is excellent, full of meaty chunks of chicken, a zingy chili sauce and little shoestring potato crisps for crunch. The Palachinki crepe is delightfully chewy, just sweet enough and garnished with a beautiful assortment of fruit. A Sprint Snacks lunch should be just the thing to cheer you up on a grey winter day.



Dainty Kitchen’s windows are a feast for the eyes.

Dainty Kitchen, 322 Somerset St. E.

It’s a tough time to be opening a restaurant, but Dainty Kitchen is finding an audience for its interesting selection of grilled meats, vegetables, and noodle dishes to go. Chongqing noodles come in a large bowl with an attractive garnish of vegetables, coriander, and boiled egg, along with a container of savoury broth to pour over when you’ve got them

home. Meat skewers come in a generous bouquet of four long sticks of grilled and tasty chicken, lamb, or more exotic choices. The restaurant has a winning way with cabbage (tenderly braised in a spicy sauce) and lotus root (crispy chips).



Happy Goat, 317 Wilbrod St.

As if steaming hot coffee and chewy ginger cookies weren’t enough to draw you in, the Goat is now offering doughnuts from Maverick’s. You’ll find a couple of platters of fresh choices each day. The vegan doughnuts are a little more slender and moist than their traditional cousins, and are very tasty. We liked the orange-and-chocolate-glazed one very much. The ‘standard’ doughnuts have a pleasantly crisp exterior and come with many appealing toppings. A chocolate-caramel one studded with walnuts was a hit with us.

Safi Fine Foods, 296 Somerset St. E.

Building permits and COVID-related construction rules are delaying the day when Somerset can welcome the new and improved Safi. It’s good to see the scaffolding down, though, and in a few more months the neighbourhood should be able to celebrate the return of groceries and samosas along with the spring.

Don't let this to happen to you!

Dodi Newman

On January 8, 2021, our older daughter was taken to hospital with COVID-19 which she probably got from one of the non-mask-wearing fellow tenants in her apartment building. She was given excellent treatment (including remdesivir and dexamethasone), and on January 15 she was discharged. Officially, she no longer has COVID-19 but she says, "Some things surprise me so much — a relatively mild case like mine has completely changed how I 'do' my life. Sitting on the couch, reading a book, and eating breakfast is exhausting, even after eight days out of the hospital!"

Besides exhaustion, COVID-19 has other long-term consequences that occur at random and are unpredictable. These were the main ones affecting our daughter:

- Immune system: hers is very, very weak due to the life-saving medications she received. She will have to take all the usual COVID precautions for an indefinite length of time to avoid catching usually harmless infections like the common cold, which in her case may develop into serious illnesses.
- Blood clots (embolisms): they were discovered in her brain, her lungs and near her heart. Embolisms are poten-

tially life-threatening and are slow to dissolve. They commonly occur with COVID-19, and have long-term consequences.

- Blood thinners: she will have to take them for many months. They have to be carefully monitored, and she must go to an anti-coagulant clinic and see her family doctor once a week for the foreseeable future.
- "Brain fog": this is a frequent consequence of brain embolisms. It brings about memory loss, and watching television or reading a book become extremely difficult.
- Lung damage: Physiotherapy several times a week is necessary to strengthen her lungs and help them function properly.

No longer having COVID-19 is one thing. Getting well is another — it is a full-time job and no one knows how long that job will take. But her employer is understanding and supportive, and she has a loving husband. Without someone to care for her and be her memory, she would have an even more difficult time.

You really do not want this to happen to you! Please take all the warnings seriously, including this one, and play it safe: Stay home, keep visits and get-togethers virtual, always wear a mask when you leave your home, and wash your hands when you return. Stay well!

Leave a treasure hunt for future homeowners

Lynda Cox



During this time of COVID lockdowns when our thoughts cannot safely turn to vacations, large family gatherings, reunions, big weddings etc., many Ottawans are finding themselves dreaming of a renovation to hopefully give them additional space for home offices and possibly a recreation room for cooped up kids learning online. Or perhaps the need is for a new and expanded kitchen which, during this time of stay-at-home orders, is running at maximum capacity with more storage and counter space needed. If you are a DIYer, you might have already started your project. If not, I'm sure you are surfing the net for design ideas and watching every home makeover show you can find.

If this is your plan, I have a suggestion: **leave your mark; leave a surprise; leave a memento** of your time in the home for the next owner to discover. What do I mean? There are many stories of Canadians finding treasures behind walls, under floorboards or in basement or attic crevices. Yes, some have been worth lots of money but more have been worth a value of a different sort, a value that cannot be measured.

It could be as simple as a Ziplock bag or shoebox with a few items, like before and after photos, newspaper clippings, a letter, a few labelled family photos, etc., from your years in the home, or it could be a USB stick filled with the same. A progressive time capsule if you will. If you are artistic, how about painting a

mural or some messages on the basement wall before the drywall goes up or under the new flooring. Handprints, pawprints, get creative. The next owners/renovators will get such a happy surprise.

I'd love to hear what you have already found or what you are planning to leave. Drop me a line at lynda@coxhometeam.ca

Now for an update: December 2020 was a record year surpassing 2019 in number of sales and sale prices. Residential home prices were up 20% and condominiums 19%. Compare that to 2019 of approximately 9%, 2018 from 3-5%, and 2017 from 3-7%. "We feel that Ottawa is just coming into its own as a national capital city," commented the president of the Ottawa Real Estate Board. Combine that with low interest rates and low inventory and *voilà!* it is indeed a good time to sell.

Sandy Hill Real Estate update
November 6, 2020 - January 24, 2021

Residential

Active	1
Sold	8

2 selling over list price from \$100 to \$51,000 over

Condominiums

Active	40
Conditionally Sold	1
Sold	22

2 selling over list price from \$10,000 to \$12,000 over



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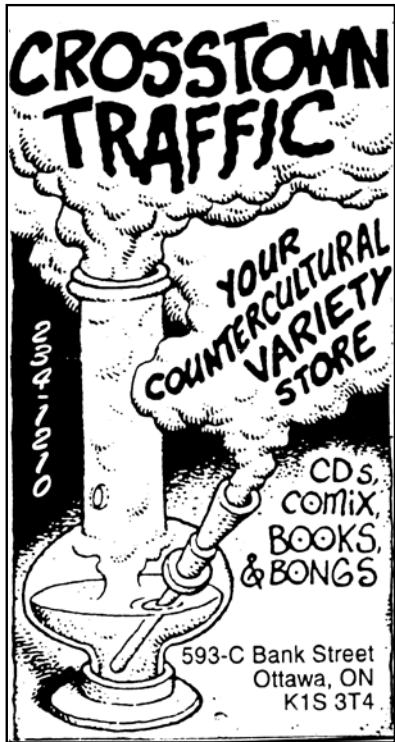
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Follow along on Instagram for feline findings

Megan Lafrenière

It all started with Ginger. From the laminated note attached to her collar, I learned Ginger lived at Marlborough and Somerset. I took her photo. Because I am a cat lady. And I have photographed dozens of Côte-de-Sable *minous* since then.

Last winter, I decided to share my photos and launched the @CatsOfSandyHill account on Instagram. Little did I know

Photos Megan Lafrenière

the account would become a pandemic pastime. Neighbourhood walks are now feline safaris. On a lucky day I will cross paths with a “regular” or sight a new furry subject. Already 2021 has given me a pink cat. That must be a good omen!

A few kitties have been identified by name, whether in person or by Instagram followers. A slender little sweetheart named Esmé was spotted online by her human, along with Elvis whom she described as “everybody’s cat.” I recall he barrelled his way towards me without hesitation, ready for his close-up.



Left— Ginger basking in Strathcona Park on a warmer day than today.

Casey (aka Min Min) is a regular on my street. We called him Ranger until I had the opportunity to ask his human over the fence one day. He saunters over to our yard almost daily to charm my cats with his giant paws and good looks.

And of course there is Milo, the fluffy manager of Barely Bruised Books who, I was told, wears a GPS tracker so his hu-

man can keep tabs on his whereabouts. I have captured him lounging among books outside and seeking shade at the laundromat next door.

So far, I have only posted my own photographs, but who knows what this new year will bring. Based on the number of photos I have taken so far, it is very clear that Sandy Hill loves cats, too.



Above — Sandy Hill residents will likely have come across Milo during a visit to Barely Bruised Books or neighbouring Happy Goat Coffee.

Photo Betsy Mann



Snow on the ground and relatively mild temperatures brought neighbours of all ages to the sliding hill in Strathcona Park. A few years ago, a landscape architect thought that the open space at the bottom of that hill needed some new trees. Good thing community consultation pointed out what that hill is really there for!

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